



ENGAGE

Break the Ice: (The purpose of these first questions is to help your group open up. Please don't feel like you have to ask each question. You may even have a better question. Once you feel that the group is engaged, move on to the "Inspire" section.)

- What was the best or worst job you had as a teenager?
- What did God teach you during the message this weekend? Did anything in particular stand out?

Prayer: Take some time to pray for God's Spirit to speak to your group through His Word.

INSPIRE

(Since the group may need time to process each question, don't let silence scare you. Try to avoid filling the space with unnecessary explanation or moving on from the question too quickly.)

1. Share about a time you learned the value of working hard. Who taught you that working hard was honorable?
2. Read Proverbs 6:6-11, 12:24, 13:4, 14:23, and 18:9. What jumps out at you from these verses?
 - What are the benefits of hard work?
 - What are some factors that can cause a person to become lazy, sluggard, and slothful?
 - Should we follow 1 Thessalonians 3:10 when it comes to dealing with those who are lazy?
3. Phil shared that selfishness is the root of a person being lazy or slothful.
 - Do you see that play out in your workplace?
 - In the workplace, what is the difference between a person who is selfish and a person who is driven?
 - If selfishness were to control you, how would that change what you do at work?
4. In Ecclesiastes 2:1-10, Solomon describes how he worked hard (toiled) to afford himself of many pleasures (he worked for the weekend). In verse 11 he concludes: But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere. (NLT)
 - Would you agree or disagree that a workaholic sacrifices health (physical and relational) to amass wealth for others to enjoy?
 - Most of us will spend the largest portion of our waking lives working. For the most part, has your attitude toward your work been "I work to live" or "I live to work"? How are these attitudes flawed?
5. Read Colossians 3:23-25. (Note: Although Paul wrote these words specifically to slaves, the principle applies to all believers.)
 - How does working for the Lord and not for men challenge you?
 - What would some of the benefits be (for you and others) if you lived out these verses in your workplace?
 - What type of reward does the person who works for the Lord seek?
 - Do you find it hard to deny your flesh and resist wanting to be noticed? If so, why?
6. At your workplace, how can you be purposeful and intentional to influence others for Christ and bring glory to God?



EQUIP

(These questions will challenge your group members to apply the study to their daily lives. It is highly important that you go over this section with your group each week for the group study to be a success. Set aside 15-20 minutes at the end of your study to go over this section.)

Share with your group what your attitude is when it comes to your working environment, and one thing you want to change or add as you work on this earth for Jesus.

Prayer:

Take some time to pray over each group member's identified action steps and life issues.

Equip Your Mind:

Whatever you do, work heartily—as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:23-24, ESV)