

Discussion questions

Genesis 2v4-17

'In the beginning...The Gift of work'

Possible opening: When you were a child, what job did you want to do when you grew up? Describe a memorable day of work – either good memorable or bad memorable – what made it that way?

Read Genesis 2:1-3, 15, 3:17-19 & Colossians 3:22-25

Work as ordained

1. If you skim back over Genesis 1 what type of work do you see God doing? What does that tell us about the dignity of work?
2. Dorothy Sayers – 'work is not primarily a thing one does to live – but the thing one lives to do'. Discuss that quote together – is that always true?
3. What work have you had in the past that you felt wasn't worthwhile? What work is undervalued in our culture? Is there work you are not prepared to do – why is that?

Work as worship

1. In what way is our work a 'sacred' task? Is there any distinction between sacred and secular work? If someone works for a church or a Christian organisation is that a better job/calling than that same person working for another organisation?
2. Have you ever faced the temptation of thinking – I could serve God better if I didn't have to work? When is that temptation most likely to rear its head?
3. Martin Luther told the cobbler that the way he could serve God was to make good shoes and sell them at a fair price. What would it look like for you to 'make good shoes' in your primary place of work – whether that is paid work, voluntary work or in the home? What hinders us from seeing our work as a sacred task?

Work as toil

1. What would you say are your biggest challenges as you carry out your normal work? Are those struggles similar to other people you work with?
2. Are there any unique challenges you face because you're a Christian working in the situation you are in?

Work as working for the Lord

1. Read Colossians 3:22-25. What perspectives does Paul want to give us here about our work?
2. How could you make positive steps in either your attitude to work, what you do at work? How is being a follower of Jesus transforming the way you do your work? Or how could it transform what you do?