

D Group Lesson: How to Like Your Work

Sermon Series: Stand Alone

Date: September 6, 2026

Main Scripture: Colossians 3:23–24

Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 2:15; Genesis 3:17–19; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17; Ephesians 6:7

Big Idea

Work is not simply something we endure to earn a paycheck. When Jesus is Lord of our work, our work becomes an opportunity to please God, serve others, and bring Him glory.

HOOK — What Do You Think About Work?

Opening Question

When you hear the words “**I have to go to work tomorrow,**” what is your first reaction?

- 😊 “I enjoy what I do.”
- 😐 “It’s just part of life.”
- 😞 “I’m already tired thinking about it.”
- 🙏 “Can we talk about something else?”

Allow everyone to answer honestly without judgment.

Discuss

1. Why do you think so many people view work as something to **endure** rather than something to **enjoy**?
2. What is something you actually enjoy about your work or school?
3. What is one part of your work that you would gladly eliminate if you could?
4. Do you think it is possible to dislike parts of your job and still honor God through your work? Why?

Transition

Most of us have experienced the “**Hump Day**” mentality—just trying to make it through Wednesday so we can get to the weekend.

But the Bible gives us a different perspective.

God doesn't want us to divide our lives into “**spiritual**” things and “**work**” things. If Jesus is Lord of our lives, then He is Lord of Monday through Friday, too.

LOOK — What Does the Bible Say?

1. Work Was God's Idea

Read **Genesis 2:15**.

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

Discuss

1. What does this verse tell us about when work began?
2. Was work part of God's original design before sin entered the world?
3. What changed after the Fall—work itself, or the difficulty and frustration associated with work?

Key Thought

Work is not the curse. The curse made work difficult.

Work existed before sin entered the world. God created us to work, create, cultivate, serve, and accomplish meaningful things.

So work itself is not a necessary evil. **Work can be a good gift from God.**

2. Our Motivation Matters

Read **Colossians 3:23–24**.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

Paul doesn't say, “Whatever you do, make sure your boss is watching.”

He doesn't say, “Work hard when you are getting paid more.”

He says, “**Work as if you are working for the Lord.**”

Discuss

What are some wrong motivations people have for choosing or keeping a job?

Consider:

- Money
- Status
- Power
- Prestige
- Benefits
- Convenience
- Other people's expectations

Discuss

1. Have you ever been tempted to make a decision primarily because of money or status?
2. How could a job that looks great on paper actually be a bad choice spiritually?
3. What questions should a Christian ask when considering a new job or promotion?

Key Thought

The best job isn't necessarily the one that pays the most. The best job is one where we can faithfully use what God has given us and keep Him first.

3. Don't Expect to Love Every Part of Your Work

The sermon talked about the **60/40 principle**: there may be parts of your job you really enjoy and parts you simply have to endure.

That is normal.

Discuss

What is your “40%”?

In other words, what is the part of your work that you don't particularly enjoy?

Then ask:

How do you normally respond to the parts of your job you don't like?

Do you:

- Complain?
- Procrastinate?
- Do the bare minimum?
- Blame someone else?
- Pray for strength?
- Try to get it done quickly so you can focus on what you enjoy?

Key Thought

You don't have to love every part of your job to honor God.

Sometimes faithfulness means doing the difficult, boring, repetitive, or frustrating things **with the right attitude because you know who you are ultimately working for.**

4. Excellence and Enthusiasm

Read **Colossians 3:17**.

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus...”

The sermon gave us two characteristics of someone who honors God through their work:

Excellence + Enthusiasm

Discuss

1. What does excellence look like in your particular job?
2. What's the difference between **excellence** and **perfectionism**?
3. How does your attitude change when your boss, teacher, or supervisor isn't watching?
4. What does it communicate to others when a Christian consistently does their work with excellence?

Important Reminder

We don't work hard because someone is watching.

We work faithfully because God is watching.

5. Your Workplace Can Be Holy Ground

Read **1 Corinthians 10:31**.

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

Ask the group:

What if your workplace is actually one of the places God has called you to minister?

Your workplace may be your mission field.

You may be the person God uses to encourage, listen to, help, pray with, or show kindness to someone who desperately needs it.

Consider These Examples

- **Mechanic:** Use your skills to help someone who is struggling financially—a single parent, elderly person, or someone going through a difficult season.
- **Construction worker:** Use your skills to serve your community by helping repair or rebuild homes damaged by a flood or other disaster.
- **Factory worker:** Take time to listen when a coworker is struggling. When appropriate, offer to pray with them.
- **Cashier:** Even when a customer is impatient, dismissive, or disrespectful, choose to respond with patience, kindness, and dignity.
- **Healthcare worker:** Offer compassion and, when appropriate and welcomed, pray with someone facing surgery, a difficult diagnosis, or a frightening situation.

Discuss

1. Which of these examples stands out to you the most? Why?
2. What are some ways people in your particular workplace can minister to others?
3. Who is one person at your work or school who may need encouragement right now?
4. What would it look like to see your workplace as a **mission field rather than simply a paycheck?**

TOOK — What Will You Do Differently?

The goal isn't simply to understand that our work belongs to God.

The goal is to **change the way we approach work.**

Move From Endure to Enjoy

This doesn't mean that every Monday morning suddenly becomes exciting.

It means we change our perspective.

Instead of:

“I have to go to work.”

We can begin saying:

“God has given me an opportunity to serve Him and serve others today.”

Instead of:

“I'm just working for a paycheck.”

We can say:

“I'm ultimately working for the Lord.”

Instead of:

“Nobody appreciates what I do.”

We can say:

“God sees my faithfulness.”

Instead of:

“This job is meaningless.”

We can ask:

“How can God use me here?”

Personal Challenge

Take a few moments and answer these questions privately:

1. My Attitude

What attitude about my work do I need to surrender to God?

2. My Excellence

What is one area where I need to do my work with greater excellence?

3. My Enthusiasm

What is one part of my work where I need to change my attitude?

4. My Ministry

Who is one person at my workplace or school that I could encourage, help, listen to, or pray for this week?

5. My Perspective

Complete this sentence:

“This week, I will try to see my work as an opportunity to...”

D GROUP CHALLENGE

This week, **don't just endure your work—use it for God's glory.**

Choose **one person** at your workplace or school and intentionally:

- Encourage them.
- Listen to them.
- Help them.
- Pray for them.
- Show them kindness.
- Serve them.

- Or simply treat them with the dignity and respect that reflects Jesus.

Then come back next week prepared to share what happened.

Closing Discussion

Ask:

If Jesus were physically working beside you tomorrow, would it change how you approach your job? Why?

Then remind the group:

Jesus is Lord of more than our Sundays. He is Lord of our Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Our work matters because **the One we work for matters.**

Closing Prayer

“Lord, thank You for the work You have given us. Forgive us for the times we have viewed work only as something to endure. Help us to see our work through Your eyes. Give us excellence in what we do, enthusiasm in how we do it, and opportunities to serve the people around us. Help us remember that we are ultimately working for You, not simply for a boss or a paycheck. Use our workplaces and schools as places where Your love can be seen through us. May everything we do bring glory to You. In Jesus' name, amen.”

Memory Verse

Colossians 3:23

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”