



The Kingdom at Work

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EVERY NATION
P R O D U C T I O N S

THE KINGDOM AT WORK

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INTRODUCTION

As Christians, God called us to live for Him no matter where we are. He is at work in bringing His plans and purposes on earth, and He calls us to take part in what He is doing. As part of the workforce in different sectors of society, we have the opportunity to demonstrate and declare our faith to others. God has allowed us to have specific jobs and careers for a purpose. We work knowing that we have one goal that encompasses all other objectives and plans—to glorify God.

The challenge lies in honoring God with our lives, even when others may not share our values or agree with our beliefs. How can we honor God if we are working for a boss who doesn't seem to care about people? What do we do if our colleagues are difficult to work with? How can we share our faith with people who don't seem interested in listening to what we have to say?

Surviving the daily grind and having a clear understanding of our purpose at work are two different things. As Christians, we report for work not just because God has placed us there, but also believing that God has given us everything we need to thrive. When people see that we are passionate and excellent in what we do, serving and giving our best and not to be ahead of the rat race, we bring glory to God.

The Bible is not just full of principles for living, but also truth that we can apply in our own lives. This includes challenges we face in the workplace. By using our God-given talents and abilities and allowing God to mold us as we relate with different kinds of people, we do our part in fulfilling God's mission, which is to advance His kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

The Kingdom at Work is a six-lesson material that aims to help individuals in any field of work to honor God and advance His kingdom. Through this, we can get principles and practical applications that will help us thrive in our workplace.

1 Calling

WARM-UP

- As a child, what did you want to grow up to be? Why?
- What aspect of your current job do you love the most?
- Tell us about one of your accomplishments at work you are most proud of.

WORD *²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **GENESIS 1:26–27***

(Read also **COLOSSIANS 1:16**.)

Work is a major part of our lives. It takes up at least one-third of each day. It is how God provides for our needs and for our families. It also has the capacity to affect other areas of our lives. We all have different perspectives and feelings about work, but in this lesson we will look at what the Bible says about work and how it relates to God’s calling for our lives. The following truths will help us understand why our work is part of God’s calling for us.

1 | God works.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

GENESIS 1:1

The God who formed us in His image and likeness is a God who works. This is His very nature. He creates value and makes His glory known throughout creation. As His image bearers, He wants us to reflect Him by doing work that adds

value to people and serves His kingdom purposes. Whether by creating art, making music, solving problems, developing products, leading people, or organizing ideas, God has given us the ability to create something of value that will serve and benefit mankind. Before you read the Bible and became a follower of Christ, how did you view God? How has that changed?

2 | God calls us to work.

*The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. **GENESIS 2:15***

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. **EPHESIANS 2:10***

God called Adam for particular work that God had prepared for him. In the same way, when God saved us by His grace through faith in Christ, He also called us for the good works He prepared for us in advance (Ephesians 2:8–10). With this in mind, we acknowledge that work is truly part of God's calling for our lives. And as His representatives on earth, we are to steward and grow all that He has entrusted to our care by faithful management, diligent hard work, and thoughtful care and passion.

When God created man, He intended him to work and find fulfillment as he works. Having this perspective will allow us to discover that work is not just means for getting a paycheck on a monthly basis but something that makes us live out our God-given purpose. Through work, God allows us to experience not only growth in our careers, but also in our

knowledge of Him, in our character, and in our relationships. With our life's work, we create value that will truly bless the world to the honor and glory of God. In what areas of your life have you experienced personal growth through the work God has given you?

3 | God shows us how to work and rest.

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. **GENESIS 1:31**

The phrase *It was good* was mentioned five times in Genesis 1, describing the work God had done every day. On the sixth day, when God finished all His work, including the creation of mankind—the pinnacle of all His creation—He described it as *very good*. This is how we are to work as well, following His example and reflecting His glory. Why do you think some people fail to give their best in their work? How did you come to the point of wanting to pursue excellence, no matter the role or task?

4 | God desires that we enjoy the fruit of our work in fellowship with Him.

*²And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. **GENESIS 2:2-3***

After they were created, one of the first things that Adam and Eve saw was God resting and enjoying His completed work with them. God rested not because He was tired or because He needed to. He rested to enjoy what He had created. Like God's work, our work includes the principle of rest and the sabbath. God designed our work to glorify Him, serve people, and have healthy and meaningful relationships. Work is not meant to destroy us, be unhealthy, or negatively affect our relationship with Him and other people. How has your work challenged you to become better at valuing people and the key relationships in your life? Why do you think people tend to overwork?

APPLICATION

- What is God showing you lately in your attitude towards work? How should the truth that God is a creative worker and we are created in His image and likeness affect your life now?
- What do you think causes you to lose motivation and passion at work? How can you pursue growth and excellence in your area of responsibility starting this week?
- Why do you think God made rest a necessary part of our lives? How can a regular day of rest allow us to give our best at work and in our relationships? On which day do you usually rest?

PRAYER

- Praise God for creating us in His image and likeness—with the innate ability to be creative, caring, and compassionate. As part of your covenant relationship with Him, honor Him for giving you the ability to produce wealth.
- Pray that God would cause you to see your distinct contribution in His kingdom. Pray for a renewed perspective of work in light of His mission to restore the world to Christ.
- Ask God for boldness and the readiness to engage people in your workplace in a conversation about His Lordship and the saving grace of Christ. Whether you will present the gospel to them in person or online, pray that their hearts would be open and that you would speak with clarity and confidence.

2 Excellence

WARM-UP

- Share your best customer experience from a restaurant or an establishment. What did the people there do for you to consider this as a great experience?
- Who is your favorite athlete? Why is he or she your favorite?
- If you could enroll in a class to learn something new, what would you sign up for? Why would you like to learn about this?

WORD *³⁰Then Moses said to the people of Israel, “See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; ³¹and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, ³²to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, ³³in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft.”* **EXODUS 35:30–33**

(Read also **EXODUS 35:34–36:1.**)

Work is a blessing from God. People are given specific jobs and fields of expertise to take part in God’s rule over His creation. He empowered Adam to fulfill specific tasks—to cultivate and tend the entire garden as well as to name all the different animals in it (Genesis 2:15, 19–20). There is dignity in hard work, no matter what our jobs are. If we did not have both garbage collectors and doctors, we would all suffer from health issues. This speaks of God being intentional in giving us the jobs that we have today. We are in our current jobs for a specific purpose. He has wired us with different talents and skills for us to excel in the workplace. The work that we have today is a manifestation of God’s faithfulness to us. The way we steward the work that is given to us is our faithfulness to Him.

1

God blesses us with skills and intelligence for good work.

"... and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship . . ."

EXODUS 35:31

God equipped Bezalel with skill, intelligence, and knowledge to oversee the construction of the Tabernacle, a place for God to dwell. There was a specific task at hand for him and God supplied him with the expertise to do the job excellently. In the same manner, God has wired us with skills, knowledge, and intelligence for us to do our jobs. We steward these gifts by using them to do our God-given work excellently. What part of your job do you like the most? How can you improve in areas that you feel that you still need to grow in?

2

God expects excellence in the way we work.

"Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the LORD has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the LORD has commanded." **EXODUS 36:1**

The craftsmen had what they needed to construct the sanctuary. The Lord had given them the ability to create and complete the work in order to meet the desired outcome. The specificity of how the tabernacle should be constructed speaks of how mindful God is about doing the work correctly. There were no shortcuts; they did it right. This reminds us that God looks at the way we do our work and how we make use of the skills and talents He has given us. How do our

God-given skills and abilities enable us to excel? Share about some of the abilities God has given the people you work with.

3 | God's Spirit empowers us to work excellently.

"... and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship . . ."

EXODUS 35:31

Being excellent in our work is not just simply exercising our knowledge, skills and talents; it is also a demonstration of being Spirit-empowered in the workplace. We can go the extra mile and do our jobs masterfully because God's Spirit is in us as we work. Being Spirit-filled in the workplace is not limited to getting excellent results. As God works in us, He greatly shapes the way we go about our daily work. The Holy Spirit continually works in us to produce His fruit: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control* (Galatians 5:22–23). Our heart for excellence is not just expressed in the result of our work but also in having the right countenance, attitude, and perspective. What can you do to ensure that you are walking in step with the Holy Spirit as you work every day?

APPLICATION

- How does excellence in the workplace glorify God?
- Reflect on your thought-life when it comes to work. Are there areas that you need to submit to Jesus so you can serve in your workplace more excellently?
- What do you think are the hindrances for people to give their best in their jobs? What could be the immediate rewards if a person gives his or her best at work? How can you encourage people to serve with excellence this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for where He placed you, the skills and abilities He has blessed you with, and His provision and grace in your life.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to highlight specific areas in your work where you can demonstrate your God-given talents and skills more excellently.
- Believe God for opportunities to exemplify the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your workplace. Pray for open doors to declare and demonstrate the gospel to your colleagues this week.

3 Passion

WARM-UP

- What's one thing you look forward to every day?
- If there's one thing that you could do for the rest of your life, what would it be? Why?
- What encourages you to give your best in what you do?

WORD *²³Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. **COLOSSIANS 3:23-24***

Our jobs help bring order to the world that God has created. If you are a doctor, you are an agent of God's healing. If you are in business, you provide goods and services to the world. If you are an employee, you take part in the greater mission of your company. In all these, we get to use our God-given talents to do our jobs and, at the same time, earn to provide for our daily needs.

As mentioned in the previous lesson, God wants us to work excellently in whatever He has called us to do. Our attitude and manner at work are two of the areas where the heart of excellence is expressed. How we perceive our work greatly affects these two. The idea of work has been perceived by people in many different ways. For many, it is simply a necessity to generate income and earn a living. For others, work has also been viewed as an avenue to use God-given talents and skills, an opportunity to practice what people love doing, or something that has a mission and drives people to be fully engaged. While these are all valid perspectives, sticking to one view alone can make us miss the essence of work as God's call for everyone.

In this lesson, we will look at the attitude and manner that God has called us to work, as well as the proper perspective that we can have as a result of this.

1 | Work heartily in everything you do.

Whatever you do, work heartily . . . **COLOSSIANS 3:23**

The word *heartily* is synonymous with passion. By using this word, the apostle Paul is telling Christians to give their whole being to whatever God has called them to do. This includes their work and not just what they do as a church community. This also includes challenging work responsibilities that one may not particularly enjoy. Believers are instructed to *work heartily* in all they do. Why do you think Paul made sure to write, *Whatever you do*?

2 | Work heartily knowing you are serving the Lord.

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men . . . **COLOSSIANS 3:23**

Culture and experience play a major role in how we are shaped to work, seeking the approval of our bosses, receiving incentives, and being recognized by others. While these could result in a healthy working environment, these are not true motivations to work with passion. Paul says to view our work as a means for us to serve and worship God. God is who we desire to please. Having an audience of one empowers us to work faithfully for whom we are truly passionate. There will be no distinction between work and worship when we position our hearts this way. We serve God when we work. We work for a greater Master more than our boss or the person who gives us our paycheck. How do

unmet expectations of the people around us demotivate us to work with passion? According to Romans 12:1, what is our appropriate response to the mercy God has shown to us? How can the desire to please the Lord empower us to *work heartily*?

3 | **Work heartily because God is your rewarder.**

*. . . knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. **COLOSSIANS 3:24***

God's nature is to bless. Through our jobs, we get our salaries, enjoy company benefits, and receive the perks of doing good business. However, a pitfall we often get trapped into is to work solely for these rewards. If all these rewards disappeared, the passion would probably also go with it. The Bible gives us a deeper meaning of what it is to be rewarded by God. In Paul's context, he was addressing slaves that could not receive any inheritance from their masters and most likely not from their parents. However, Paul encouraged them that God was their rewarder. God not only gifts His children with eternal life and a relationship with Him, but He furthermore rewards them for their work. These rewards may or may not be in this life, but He will definitely give eternal rewards to believers on Judgment Day according to what they have done (1 Corinthians 3:12-14). Why is this better than receiving rewards from people?

If we see work as God's call and He is our main audience as we do our jobs, the motivation of our hearts to work with passion will also change. Our passion for work greatly increases when we do all of this for the one we are most passionate about.

APPLICATION

- What's one thing that you can do every day to see your work as a means to worship God?
- How can you manage the tension between working for your needs to be met and to fulfill God's purposes for your life?
- How can working heartily for the Lord bring His mission to your workplace? What is your mission or goal in your current job?

PRAYER

- Thank God for being your audience of one—that He alone would be pleased as you work. Thank Him also for being the source of your inheritance and reward.
- Pray for opportunities to see the different areas of your job as a means to worship God. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal specific areas for you to glorify God.
- Believe God for opportunities to preach the gospel in your workplace. Pray that through your passion, God will be glorified and doors will be opened for the gospel to be preached and demonstrated.

4 Relationships

WARM-UP

- Share about a good friend you have at work. Why would you consider him or her as a good friend?
- What's one word you would use to describe your boss? Why?
- How do people know you at your workplace? How do you wish to be remembered by them? Why?

WORD *¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. ¹²We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11-13*

(Read also **1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12.**)

God desires for us to represent Him in all areas of our lives, including the workplace. Although Paul's letter to the Thessalonians was mainly to new followers of Jesus, we can learn biblical perspectives on what it means to work in relationship with others.

As we work with different people and face high-stress situations and unmet expectations, we may find ourselves in tough spots: communication breakdowns, personality conflicts, and misunderstandings. Working in an environment that is tense or abounding in conflict can rob us of joy and excitement. But we need to remember that God specifically placed us in our current place of work for a purpose. If we acknowledge that God has appointed us to work, no matter who our earthly boss is or what our coworkers are like, we will ultimately work to serve and please the Lord (Colossians 3:23-24).

Amidst the stressful situations we may be experiencing, our work presents an opportunity to bring faith, love, and peace. We reflect our love for God in the quality of both our work and relationships. In this lesson, we will reflect on how we are representing God in the workplace and how we can please Him.

1 | Do I make an effort to encourage and build people up in my workplace?

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

Despite the hardships and persecution that the Thessalonians were experiencing, Paul reminded them to continue to live a life that honors and pleases God. Encouraging one another is a way to build and strengthen our faith. God is always at work and He is working in us (Philippians 2:13). He gives us the grace and ability to be compassionate and empathize with others, especially in tough times. When we see or hear that our bosses or coworkers are going through trying times, whether personally or professionally, we can take the opportunity to represent God by making an effort to speak life, hope, and encouragement to build them up. We can offer to listen, help, or even pray for them. By doing so, we have an opportunity to strengthen and encourage them in their faith. Do you recall a time when you made an effort to encourage your boss or coworker? How did you do it, and how did they respond?

2 | Do I treat people with love and respect in my workplace?

¹²We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13

One distinguishing mark of being a follower of Jesus is the way we love one another (John 13:35). Personal differences, misunderstandings, and miscommunication are all unavoidable issues in the workplace. Whether we need to correct others or receive correction, we should ask God to help us speak and embrace the truth with love and respect. Listening and seeking to understand the other person's perspective even if we don't agree increases our opportunity to grow in maturity. It also lessens the chances of causing unnecessary hurt or offense. As we represent God in our workplace, let us be *quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger* (James 1:19). Was there ever a time at work when you were unable to control your emotions and ended up regretting what you said? What did you learn from it?

3 | Do I strive to keep the peace in my workplace?

Be at peace among yourselves. **1 THESSALONIANS 5:13**

As God's children, we are to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9) to the people around us. This can be very difficult to do, especially if our workplace has a culture of mistrust and gossip. We tend to believe that we need to take sides or participate in the gossip to survive at our workplace, thus creating further division and strife. Instead of being part

of the problem, we can ask God to give us the grace and wisdom to promote peace and unity. We can be at peace with ourselves and others when we are at peace with God. What challenges do you think you may encounter in keeping and striving to promote peace and unity in your workplace?

Though God has grounds to punish us, we were not destined by Him to experience His wrath. Instead we have obtained salvation through Jesus Christ, who died for us so that we might be with Him (1 Thessalonians 5:9–10). This is the basis of all we do. When we have experienced God’s love, peace, and encouragement, we in turn are empowered to be His channel to others.

APPLICATION

- In what area/s of being relational in the workplace do you find most challenging? Why? How do you resolve to grow in these area/s, starting today?
- What can you do to keep the peace or restore peace at work? Take some time this week to ask God how to go about this and pray every day for those you have the hardest time keeping the peace with.
- Find some people in your workplace to encourage or pray for this week. How do you think you will start a conversation?

PRAYER

- Thank God for your work, your boss, and your coworkers. Speak a prayer of blessing over them.
- Ask God for opportunities to build with the people you work with and to preach the gospel to them.
- Pray for God to give you the grace to represent Him well in your workplace. Pray that you will be a blessing to the people in your workplace by encouraging them, demonstrating love and respect, and being an instrument of peace.

5 Endurance

WARM-UP

- Complete this statement: "Work for me is _____." Explain your answer.
- What is the one thing about your work that you wish to improve or change? Why?
- Have you ever experienced being treated badly at work? How did you deal with it?

WORD ⁴¹"And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. . . . ⁴³You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

MATTHEW 5:41, 43-45

This is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Here, Jesus shows us how to live under the reign and kingdom of God. Throughout this sermon, Jesus confronted a lot of teachings the Jews were familiar with, and He laid a foundation of what it means for us to live as children of God.

It is very rare that we find ourselves in an ideal working condition with a seemingly perfect boss. More often than not, we experience challenging situations in our workplace which test our patience or even push us to give up or leave. In this lesson, we will reflect on how we can endure in spite of these challenges and respond as children of God.

What is our response when facing challenging situations?

"And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles."

MATTHEW 5:41

When Jesus used this illustration, He was referring to the practice of how a Roman soldier could order a Jewish civilian on the way to carry his baggage, mainly containing armory, for a maximum of one mile. Once the mile is over, the civilian could drop the baggage and be relieved of its obligation. Jesus was not only asking the Jews to cooperate and do what the Roman law was asking of them, but also to go above and beyond in their service.

This principle of "going the extra mile" also applies to our work. This means to go beyond our ability and do more than what is required of us. We need to remember, however, that while the Bible encourages us to go the extra mile, it does not refer to or condone sin. Let us trust that as we obey and please God, He will use us to accomplish His purpose for us in our workplace. Share a time when you went the extra mile at work. What happened, and what did you learn from it?

2 | What is our response when facing challenging people?

43“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” **MATTHEW 5:43-44**

It is natural for everyone, whether or not we are Christians, to love those who are good to us and hate our enemies. But Jesus sets the bar higher by telling us not only to love our enemies but even pray for those who mistreat us. Here we see how opposing the standards of the world are compared to the standards of God for our lives. When we encounter challenging people in our workplace, instead of acting in anger or revenge, by God’s grace, we can choose to act in love and pray for them. Have you ever encountered “challenging” people in your workplace? What made it difficult for you to work with them? How did you respond to them?

3 | Why can we respond this way?

“... so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” **MATTHEW 5:45**

When Jesus shared these truths, He was not being unrealistic or trying to make life in His kingdom difficult for us. Jesus was looking ahead to the work He was about to accomplish on the cross for us. He knew that left to our own strength and effort, we do not have it in us to be good or do good, as required by the standards of God. He came to save us and adopt us into His family so that we can now live as children of God. Because we have experienced His goodness even

while we were sinners, we can be empowered to be good to others as well. Jesus said, *"You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect"* (Matthew 5:48). He said this because God's Spirit lives in us, and as a result, we can go the extra mile and respond with love and compassion. How has your personal relationship with Jesus helped you endure in spite of challenging situations or people in your workplace?

APPLICATION

- Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? How does your relationship with Him help you endure challenging situations or people in your workplace?
- Which of the responses discussed today do you find difficult to apply? Why?
- Commit to consistently pray for the challenges you experience in your workplace. What is your prayer for the challenging situations you are facing and for the challenging people you work with?

PRAYER

- If you have not yet prayed to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, would you like to make that decision today? Put your faith in Christ and in what He has done for you, and make a commitment to follow Him.
- Pray for grace and wisdom from the Spirit of God to “go the extra mile” and be motivated by love in your workplace.
- Pray for a challenging situation or person in your workplace every day this week and pay attention to how God will work.

6 Priorities

WARM-UP

- Do you use a watch? What kind? Why do you prefer that kind?
- Are you easily enticed to join promotions, buy items because they're on sale, or complete a specific number of purchases in exchange for a gift? Why or why not?
- Recall a time when you had to choose between two important things. What choice did you make, and how did you choose?

WORD ³¹*"Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"*
³²*For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* **MATTHEW 6:31-33**

Work is good. God made and designed us to be His coworkers for His kingdom purpose. He created us to do meaningful work that contributes value to our world today for His glory. But as good as work can be for us, it can also become an idol—a false source of identity, security, and meaning. Instead of looking to God for deliverance and hope, we may be mistakenly looking to our work. As much as work could be closely related to our calling, our ultimate calling is still to a relationship with the only Savior and King, Jesus Christ.

Our vocational calling is a result of this relationship. Whether we are called to be teachers, stockbrokers, nurses, pastors, or anything else, we must realize that a change in vocation never changes God's ultimate call for our lives. The landscape of our calling may change through the years, but it is always a call towards a more intimate relationship with Him and greater allegiance to His kingdom's cause.

The following biblical truths will help us grow as faithful, kingdom-minded, and kingdom-loyal workers.

1 | Our heavenly Father knows all our needs.

³¹“Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.” **MATTHEW 6:31-32**

Work could be the easiest and most practical answer to meet our life’s necessities such as food, drink, and clothing. We know for a fact that unless a person works, he or she would not have the means to purchase and provide for personal needs. But we are to acknowledge that it is still God who gave us the ability to produce wealth. While it’s true that it is through our work that we get these provisions and our work is a blessing from God, we are to still put our hope in God who is faithful to provide for our needs, not in our work, which is uncertain. Share an instance when you received something that was very unexpected but timely. What do you think God was teaching you at that moment?

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2 | We are called to seek His kingdom and righteousness first.

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness . . .”
MATTHEW 6:33

When money is lost, it can be made again. When we lose our job, we can look for a new one. But when time is wasted, it can never be created again. Time is indeed the most precious commodity of our lives. The good news is that we

can redeem time by living in God's wisdom. This is why God tells us to make *the best use of time and understand what the will of the Lord is, for the days are evil* (Ephesians 5:5–17).

Seeking Jesus first and being driven by His purpose makes us wise in life and in our work. When we seek Him and His ways with all of our hearts and He is first and center in everything, we experience being led by His Spirit. This is always better than simply following our own ways and thoughts. How do you ensure you seek God first every day?

3 | Our physical needs will be added to us.

“. . . and all these things will be added to you.” **MATTHEW 6:33**

As followers of Christ, we have been called to live by faith, not by sight. Now, “faith” is not simply believing and doing nothing, as if we are waiting for some fruit to fall down into our lap. Real faith works, is alive, and is manifested in diligence and action. And so, we must trust God fully and seek Him in all that we do, acknowledging Him at all times, and living by His promises. When we seek Him first, Jesus promises that He will provide for our needs. How has God provided for your needs as you have sought Him first?

APPLICATION

- According to Matthew 6:8, God knows all our needs, even before we ask Him. How will this truth change the way you look at coming to God in prayer? How can we see prayer differently, as something more than just asking for our needs to be met?
- How can you practically seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness this week? What are some adjustments you can do to make this a lifestyle?
- What promises in the Scriptures can you hold on to today? Do you believe God will fulfill them?

PRAYER

- Come together in thanksgiving as a group and praise King Jesus for His faithful leadership in your life.
- Pray for a greater personal revelation of His Lordship and submit every area of your life to Him.
- Pray for each other's needs and concerns. Believe God for breakthroughs and answered prayers, trusting that God's purpose will be fulfilled in your life, family, workplace, and community.

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

God calls us to work with Him and enables us to fulfill His call. Serving in different sectors of society, we have the opportunity to demonstrate and declare our faith to others.

The Kingdom at Work will help us discover how we can take part in accomplishing God's mission as we give our best in our field of work. With biblical and practical truth, it can lead us to grow in wisdom and understanding as we serve God through the work that we do.

TOPICS

- Calling
- Excellence
- Passion
- Relationships
- Endurance
- Priorities



EVERY NATION
PRODUCTIONS