

— *weekly* —  
**STUDY  
GUIDE**

## WORK MATTERS

### WEEK 3 // *CALLOUSED HANDS AND KNEES*

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## *Introduction*

Welcome to week three of the Work Matters study. Last week we not only learned that work is good, but also that it was God's idea in the first place. This week we seek to find the answer to the question: Does my work matter to God? As you begin, prepare your mind to receive the lesson God wants to teach you this week.

In this guide you will find questions for your own personal study along with questions to discuss at a Bible study, neighborhood gathering, or at the dinner table with family and friends. Enjoy!

## *Personal Study*

Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden of Eden created great separation from God not only for themselves but also for all of their offspring. Since that infamous day, God has been on a mission to put an end to sin and death and forever dwell among His people.

During the days of Moses, God commanded the Israelites to construct a special tent called the Tabernacle which would be a sacred dwelling place for His presence. When the people moved, the Tabernacle moved with them. In turn, God's presence was constantly with them. In order for this plan to work, someone needed to build the Tabernacle.

### **READ**

Read Exodus 31, and consider the questions below.

### **CONSIDER**

- Notice who God called to build the Tabernacle. How did God prepare Bezalel and Oholiab for the work He had for them? How could their work be considered an act of worship?

## *Personal Study Continued...*

- Consider your work, would you label the work you do secular or spiritual? Why?

### **READ**

Read Colossians 3:17, and consider the questions below.

### **CONSIDER**

- In what ways could this verse change someone's attitude towards secular work?

- What would it practically look like to do everything (especially your work) in the name of Jesus?

- What specific skills and gifts has God given you that can be used for His glory in the workplace? In the church?

### **PRAY**

Spend a few minutes thanking God for the gifts and skills He has given you. Ask Him to show you simple ways to use them for His glory in and out of the church.

# Group Study

## ICE BREAKER

Have each person in the group briefly describe a skillset they don't possess but wish they did. (Example: playing guitar or carpentry)

Previously, we learned four key truths about work:

1. Work is from God and is good.
2. All work is God's work not just the work in the church.
3. God made us consumers to sustain our lives from what He created.
4. While sin cursed the ground and made work harder, it didn't remove our call from God.

## DISCUSS

- What new insights or questions about work came to your mind over the last week?
- What changes would you like to make regarding your attitude towards your work?

Brother Lawrence lived in a Monastery in Paris in the 17th century. He was not an ordained clergy man. Consequently, he was given the simple task of working in the kitchen. Although his work was simple, he had an incredible sense of God's presence in each moment. People came from all over the place, not to visit the monks, but to learn from this common kitchen worker.

## READ

Read the quote below from "Practicing the Presence of God" which is a collection of writings from Lawrence's life.

"Nor is it needful that we should have great things to do. . . We can do little things for God; I turn the cake that is frying on the pan for love of him, and that done, if there is nothing else to call me, I prostrate myself in worship before him, who has given me grace to work; afterwards I rise happier than a king. It is enough for me to pick up but a straw from the ground for the love of God."

## DISCUSS

Lawrence's worshipful attitude towards menial work sparked curiosity in the people that experienced his joy-filled approach to life. In what ways could a Lawrence-like-attitude produce spiritual curiosity in the minds of your co-workers, family members and neighbors?

## READ

Read Colossians 3:17 together.

## DISCUSS

- Lawrence exemplifies the teaching of Colossians 3:17. Discuss which "deeds" or "little things" your work possesses that are hard to do "in the name of Jesus."
- Considering Colossians 3:17, is there any line of work that could be considered non-spiritual or secular? Explain why or why not.

## PRAY

Close your time together in prayer by confessing areas of your work you've treated small or unimportant. Invite the Holy Spirit to fill you with a renewed vision of worshipful work. Listen for God's direction and pray for the boldness to act in obedience.