

RENOVATION

CITY CHURCH

WORK

KIDS (5 Minutes)

Q: Who likes chores? Why or why not?

Q: What's the hardest chore you've ever done? Was it rewarding?

Let's see what the Bible has to say about work:

"A sluggard's appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied."

Proverbs 13:4

Q: What good things have happened when you worked hard? What bad things have happened when you slacked off?

-----DISMISS CHILDREN TO PLAY!-----

ADULTS (20-22 Minutes)

INTRODUCTION

When we think about work, a lot of things might come to your mind...for example:

- *I like work, it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours. I love to keep it by me: the idea of getting rid of it nearly breaks my heart. – Jerome K. Jerome*
- *I choose a lazy person to do a hard job, because a lazy person will find an easy way to do it. – Bill Gates*
- *The brain is a wonderful organ; it starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get into the office. – Robert Frost*

QUESTIONS

Q: Work is clearly something that tends to come with some negative connotations. Maybe not for all of us though...if you had to describe your work week this past week in one word, what would it be?

Leader: share a personal example of why work can be difficult or a current work problem you're dealing with.

Q: What about the good of work? What are some positive things about work that you can think of?

- Responses may be “to earn money and put food on the table” or “to have a successful career”.

Leader: share an example of something a little deeper like “I have been able to form good relationships with my co-workers” or “I enjoy my work because of the purpose behind it”.

SCRIPTURE

The Bible talks about work a lot! Here are a couple of examples we'll focus on today:

1) **Genesis 2:8-9, 15**

“Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

This tells us that God created a perfect place, the Garden, and in his perfect Creation, part of that “equation” was humans working to maintain it. Work was part of the original design and something we were created to do!

2) **Colossians 3:23-24**

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving

This verse tells us that **WHATEVER** you do, that there is a purpose behind what you are doing **AND** that there is a reward involved too!

FINAL QUESTIONS

- 1) How do these two verses impact your perspective of work?
- 2) In the coming work week, what something that you may be dreading that could be less worrisome if you had the perspective in these verses?

PRAYER (2-5 Minutes):

Leader: *Lead Prayer for the group with the prayer below (or something similar).*

Lord, thank you for your creation and for perfect creation and that we get to be a part of that perfect creation each day by working. We pray that you will give us the heart to have the perspective of working for more than just to make money or attain success. We ask that you give us the heart to work for you and that through that change, our work will be more fulfilling and purposeful. Amen.