



Group Leader Guide “Work Matters” – 90,000 September 14-15, 2019

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

Teaching Pastor **Ben Foote** kicks off a new series this weekend called **90,000**. This number represents the average amount of hours the typical person will spend at work in their lives. Since the last series, Burnout, was all about rest from work, this series will focus on the other days of the week and how work really does matter. It matters to God and it matters for us. It isn't an obstacle to a good life but a gift from God that is a part of a good life. This week is an introduction to the series and will speak on the Biblical definition of “work” (from **Genesis 1-3**) and what went wrong (how work itself is under the curse of **Genesis 3**). Ben will begin to unpack what this means for us today. The following three weeks will unpack it more.

// Biblical Background

“Work” in the Bible took many forms. The Hebrew words translated as “work” and as acts of work in the first three chapters of the Bible are used throughout the Bible. The usage ranged from agricultural work (as they refer to in **Genesis**; also **1 Chronicles 27:26**), to artistic, skilled craftsmen (**Exodus 31:3-5**), to general human labor (**Exodus 20:9**), to service to God (**Joshua 24:15**).

The word used for “created” in Genesis 1:1 is “בָּרָא,” pronounced “ba-ra,” is interestingly only used with God as its subject. In other words, according to the Bible, only God

“creates.” Only God forms things out of nothing. Anything we make, create, or work towards or for, therefore, is ultimately coming from God. He is the initiator of creativity and we are both the product and the means by which He continues to do so, using what He has already created as resources.

// Stats

For your reference, here is a list of the stats that Ben uses in his message:

- Average life span: 622,000 hours
- Time spent sleeping: 228,000 hours
- Time spent awake: 394,000 hours
- Time spent at work: 90,000 hours
- Time spent laughing: 3,600 hours
- Time spent exercising: 4,320 hours
- Time spent eating: 32,100 hours
- Time spent having sex: 2,800 hours
- Time spent with family and friends: 42,300 hours

// References

Baker, Warren, and Gene Carpenter, editors. Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament. AMG Publishing, 2003.

// In Preparation

Ben mentions in the leader video this week two books that were used in the development of this series (**90,000**) and the last one (**Burnout**). If you are interested in reading these, here are the titles and links to them on Amazon:

Every Good Endeavor by Timothy Keller

<https://tinyurl.com/y5m4p5x8>

Garden City by John Mark Comer

<https://tinyurl.com/y4fhykue>

Work is an interesting topic to tackle in church. Most people compartmentalize the different parts of their lives. Work and church don't usually get put in the same compartment. Church is more about our personal, spiritual lives while work is work.* You do it to make money and provide for yourself and your family. But God calls us to glorify Him in *everything* we do (1 Cor. 10:31).

Because this is usually a foreign topic in church, some people may seem uncomfortable this week during the discussion. Prepare for this with prayer and bring a lot of grace and patience with you to group. Be open about your own struggles with work and the mindsets you find yourself in regarding work.

Just as a reminder, the discussion questions are merely a guide. Don't feel obligated to stick to them directly. They are a blueprint to guide you when group feels stuck. If conversation wanders off into something different, yet still beneficial and productive for the group, great! Then, if conversation starts to die out, introduce the next question.

Finally, don't forget to pray for the members of your group this week and for God to teach them something during the message and in group.

**Some people in your group may even have jobs that seem morally questionable. Or perhaps just something that you have judgments about. Do not openly judge people's job choices or shame them when you think that they are doing something wrong in regards to their career choices. That is between them and the Holy Spirit. Also, be on the lookout for members of your group who will attempt to judge or shame. Keep the group safe!*

Discussion Questions

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// Bible References

Genesis 1:28, 3:17-19

// Community Questions

1. What was your first job?
2. What was your worst job?
3. If time or money were not an issue, what would you love to be doing for a job or career?

// Core Questions

1. Do you generally have a high or low view of work?
2. In your current job, do you usually feel productive and like you have a purpose, or do you feel like it is “fruitless and pointless”?
3. Is work the MOST important thing in your life, taking priority over relationships and health?
4. Would you define yourself by your job? Do you find that it is the main source of your identity?
5. What would it take for you to view “work” as a blessing from God and not the curse that it sometimes feels like?

// Challenge

The challenge here is the same as Ben’s in the talk. Commit to attending this entire series. Each week builds on the one before, so if you do miss, be sure to catch up online. Also, pray about and be on the lookout for someone at your work who may benefit from this series as well. Perhaps this is the person you complain about work to the most. Perhaps it is your boss or someone that works under you. Invite them to come and check out this series, either with you on a weekend or online.