



Group Leader Guide “What You Do For Work Matters” – 90,000 September 21-22, 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

Ben Foote continues the series on work called **90,000**. This week, he addresses the tendency we have as Christians to compartmentalize our lives into two categories – “Jesus stuff” and “Not-Jesus stuff” – and how this thinking can contribute to thinking that we don’t have a real purpose or mission in life. However, as Ben will explain, this was never what God had in mind for us. ALL of your life is “Jesus stuff,” especially what you do for 22% of your waking life (work). Understanding this starts with grasping the vision of your job and why you do it. Jesus had a vision statement for when His work got hard (**Matthew 20:28**). Crafting one of your own will help you enter work with a new attitude and focus.

// Biblical Background: Jesus the “Carpenter”

The word used for “carpenter” in Matthew 13:55 and Mark 6:3 to describe Jesus and his earthly father, Joseph, is the Greek word *tekton*. This word means “worker,” and probably refers more to what we would call a “construction worker” than the popular “wood-worker” visual. In Greek literature, it usually refers to a town’s “master builder,” a skilled *tekton* responsible for designing and supervising building

projects in town, using the local materials. The small town Jesus grew up in, called Nazareth, could probably have supported one *tekton* family. There aren’t a lot of trees there, so wood wouldn’t be available very often. However, there is a lot of rock there. Archaeology has found that most of the first-century construction in Nazareth was mostly made from stones or quarried out of the natural rock. So, Jesus was probably a construction worker – quarrying, moving, and building with rocks. That isn’t to say he *never* worked with wood, but the image of Jesus in a workshop making furniture is probably less accurate than a strong, tough, hard-working construction worker building structures for most of his adult life.



A 1st century AD home in Nazareth.

// In Preparation

To echo Ben from the leader video, the prep piece for this week is to really nail down your own vision statement for your job before group. Doing this beforehand will allow you to help others in crafting their own. There is a set of questions on the Discussion Questions page that is specifically meant to help you figure your statement out. Remember, your job doesn't have to be overtly "Christian" to be meaningful or in service to others. You could be a nurse, a furniture maker, a coffee barista, a writer, a teacher, a mechanic, or a tree trimmer. The list goes on and on. The bottom line is that you are serving others, either directly or by making their lives and/or the world around them a better place, just as God intended it to be!

// References

Comer, John Mark. *Garden City*. Zondervan, 2015.

Dark, Ken. "Has Jesus' Nazareth House Been Found?" *Biblical Archaeology Review* 41.2 (2015): 54-63.

Currid, John D., and David W. Chapman. *ESV Archaeology Study Bible: English Standard Version*. Crossway Books, 2017.



Discussion Questions
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// Bible References

Colossians 3:23-24; Matthew 20:26-28

// Community Questions

1. Do you have any “bad customer” stories from where you work?

// Core Questions 1

1. Have you been believing one of the following lies? 1. Work is not “Jesus stuff.” 2. Some work is “Jesus stuff,” but only if it is overtly “Christian.”
2. Did Jesus’ vision statement (Matthew 20:28) apply to His life as a carpenter/construction worker as well as the Messiah?
3. Is it possible that God can use you and be glorified in your job, even if it isn’t overtly “Christian”?

// Core Questions 2 - Crafting a Vision Statement For Your Job

1. What is your job?
2. Do you provide a direct service to other people?
3. Do you create, build, or sell something that makes people’s lives better?
4. Do you create, build, or sell something that makes the world or society a more beautiful place?
5. Fill in the blank: At work, I serve people by _____.

// Challenge

This week at your job, notice where it is that you are serving others. If you feel like you could be serving others more, take a step to do that. Keep your vision statement in mind as you do your job, as well. It always helps to have a little drive in our lives to accomplish what it is we need to accomplish in the most excellent way possible. Invite God into your job by asking Him to be with you and by showing Him to others by serving them.