



T.G.I.M.

Tension Point

#NPTGIM

Week 3
3 of 4
September 18, 2016

Bottom Line: When you take your work more seriously than God, work becomes your god. Work cannot provide what you want. Only God can.

Icebreaker: What is one employee benefit you get from your job? What is something you need but your work could never provide?

Key Verse: *Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. Deuteronomy 8:2*

The Bible is written about forgetful people to forgetful people. In the garden, Adam and Eve forgot God's character and sinned against Him. This is why over and over again in the Old Testament we see the word "remember," as we see in the beginning of the verse under consideration today. God repeatedly tells us to remember because He knows how prone we are to forget.

The word "Deuteronomy" literally means "second law." The whole book is Moses recounting the law of God and all that God had done for the people of Israel before they enter the land God has promised them. But, at this point, the question you are probably asking is, "What does this have to do with my work?" The book of Deuteronomy deals with the character of God's people, which is essential to our work.

The call to remember is the call to remember who God is. Remembering the character of God helps us put everything else in its rightful place. As 21st century Americans, the biggest threat to our reliance upon God is often our sense of self-sufficiency. We forget God because we feel like we do not need Him. We are not so different from the people of ancient Israel.

God hasn't led you out of a literal desert with a pillar of smoke and fire, but He has given you everything you have, which is no less amazing. Because of this, we surrender to God in our work and keep Him in the place of primary importance. No job can give us what Christ has provided for us. Only He can provide what you want and truly need.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight's message, what stood out to you?

Dwight said we need to manage the tension between Work and Rest; Consumption and Contentment; Success and Serenity. He said it's important to connect with God on a regular basis.

When you hear the command to remember God, what is your immediate response? What do you feel as though you need to remember? Why do you remember those things?

Why do we typically look to our jobs to provide us with the lasting satisfaction that only God can provide? How does God use our jobs to provide us with the things we need? Should we be more thankful for our jobs or to God? Explain.

LOOK IT OVER <<<

In what situations is it hardest for you to remember who God is, what He has done, and what He has provided for you?

What are the consequences of not remembering God in your work?

What would change if you remembered God and gave Him ultimate consideration in your day-to-day work?

One way that we can help ourselves remember God is by hiding His Word in our hearts. What are some particular areas of struggle for you at work or areas of self-sufficiency? What Scripture could you memorize to help you focus upon God in those moments?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

1. Have everyone list one specific thing they gain from their work. Next, have each person determine how whatever is gained from their work is truly fulfilled in God. Share these together for the sake of your own remembrance, and focus on God over the next week.
2. Thank God for being who He is and for the gifts He provides. Pray that He would remain foremost and ultimate in our lives and in our work. Ask that everything we do this week would be focused on knowing Him and remembering His goodness in all things.

EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: When you take work more seriously than God, work becomes your god.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: Deuteronomy 8:3-5

Day 2: Deuteronomy 8:6-9

Day 3: Deuteronomy 8:10-14

Day 4: Deuteronomy 8:15-18

Day 5: Deuteronomy 8:19-20

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)