



T.G.I.M.

Why Work?

#NPTGIM

Week 1
1 of 4
September 4, 2016

Bottom Line: The purpose of your life at work is to show that God is at work in your life. You will never find purpose, success, or your identity in your job because your job will come to an end – you will only find these things in God.

Icebreaker: What is the best job you have ever had?

Key Verse: *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.* Colossians 3:23

Have you ever had a really terrible boss? Every sitcom seems to have an inept or overbearing boss as a stock character. Even those of us who have never had a bad manager or supervisor can get a sense of what the experience is like from our friends or from the culture around us. Having a bad boss can make or break a job. However, the good thing for all people who are followers of Jesus is that we do not work for men but for God.

This simple change in perspective helps us see the goodness and God-given purpose behind all of the work we do. Our purpose is not to please a boss, make more money, advance and get accolades, though there is nothing wrong with those things in and of themselves. The real purpose behind our work, Paul says, is to work with all our heart for the Lord. So the accolades we receive and accomplishments we achieve are not tied to our individual performance, but for the Lord working in and through us.

The purpose of our lives at work is to demonstrate God through our work. All people can do this. Whether we are a CEO, a stay-at-home mom, a pastor, a plumber, or a salesman. All of us can honor God and the work He is doing in our lives by the way we work day in and day out at our jobs.

Our identity is not in what we do but in Whom we find our belonging. God has called us to glorify Him in everything we do (1 Cor. 10:31), including our jobs. Think about what would happen if all those who call NewPointe home went into the workforce this week, determined to honor God with all that they do and all that they are. How would our community be different?

THINK IT OVER >>>

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

Dwight said the purpose of work is to . . .

- Demonstrate responsibility
- Express my talents
- Develop my character
- Develop credibility
- Bless others
- Fund God's work

We typically think of being called by God as only describing those people who go into vocational ministry. Why does the gospel lead us to see all work as being a calling?

We just got done with a series on spiritual gifts. How might you use the gifts you have been given by God's Spirit in your workplace?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Do you see your job as being a gift from God or a burden from the fall? What impact does the way you see your job and do your job have on the people you work with who do not know Christ?

Why does seeing your job as an opportunity to honor the Lord free you from the pressure of making your job your identity?

Are you struggling in your work right now? How can we support the people in this group who are unhappy and unsatisfied in their work?

What are three specific ways that you can and will honor God at your work this week?

NEXT STEPS

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

1. What different jobs are represented in this group? Being part of a community is more than just knowing passing details about people. Do you know what the people in this group deal with at work? How can we be more intentional about praying for one another throughout the week?
2. Praise God for the gift of work. Ask that we would see our work as a way to honor Him and show that He is at work in our lives. Thank God for the gospel which redeems the toil of our labor and makes it a gift.

EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: The purpose of your life at work is to show that God is at work in your life.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4	5	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: Genesis 3:17-19

Day 2: Genesis 2:15-17

Day 3: Colossians 3:22-24

Day 4: Matthew 20:10-16

Day 5: Ephesians 6:5-9

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)