THE GOOD LIFE: Work as Worship

Pastor Derek Sanford

August 5, 2018

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Read **1 Thessalonians 4:11**. Paul strongly encouraged believers to work. Tell about the first job you had. What was the most rewarding part of that job and what was the most difficult?
3. Are you finding meaning and purpose in your daily work? Why or why not?
4. Read **Ecclesiastes 3:9, 5:10, 2:25**. What do we learn from these verses?
5. Thomas Aquinas said, “there can be no joy in living without joy in work.” Do you agree with this statement and if so, why?
6. Read the following passages: **Psalms 9:16, 115:4, 135:15, Isaiah2:8**, **Jeremiah 1:16** and **Acts 7:41**. What is the reoccurring theme from these verses? Discuss the struggle we can have with worshipping our work rather than our God. What about our work can become an “idol”?
7. Read **Colossians 3:17**. Discuss how you can work in “the name of the Lord Jesus”. What are some reasons to give thanks for your work? How can you have joy in life and in the Lord when your job is very difficult? (**1 Peter 1:8**)

**Next Steps:**

 After this sermon series what new perspectives on work will you take with you this week?

**Prayer Thought:**

* **ADORATION:** Praise God for creating a world that we can work in for His glory.
* **CONFESSION:**  Confess any unhealthy attitudes you have had during or toward work.
* **THANKSGIVING:** Thank God for the job you have or have had.
* **SUPPLICATION:** Ask God to show you ways you can bless others through your job.

**Memory Verse**: **Colossians 3:17** *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

LIVING THE GOOD LIFE: Faith on Monday

Derek Sanford

August 12, 2018

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. **Read John 15:1-5** Jesus is THE true vine. According to John15:5 why is it so important to abide (continue in relationship) with Him? What does Jesus mean when He says, “apart from me you can do nothing?”
3. **Read John 15:6-11** What are the negative consequences if you don’t abide in Jesus? What are the amazing positive consequences when you do abide in Jesus? Discuss some ways you can learn to abide in Jesus.
4. **Read John 15:8, Matthew 5:16, Isaiah 61:3** How does our fruit (good works) glorify God? How is God glorified in you? **Read 1 John 2:3-6; Philippians 1:6.** How can we (and others) tell if we are abiding in Jesus? How do you see yourself becoming more like Jesus?
5. **Read Matthew 7:15-20; John 15:2**. What is the difference between bad fruit and good fruit? How does pruning help produce more/better fruit? What could God’s pruning work look like? David Jeremiah said, “The Vinedresser is never nearer the plants than when He is pruning them.” How have you seen this in your life?
6. **Read Romans 6:5-11; Colossians 3:1-3.**  How can you consider yourself dead to sin and alive to Christ in God during your day? What does it mean to “practice the presence of God”? Share some practical examples.

**Next Steps:**

a) Jesus produces the fruit in us but our part is to get into an environment where we can abide in Him. Share with your group one way you will get into a growth environment this week (reading or listening to the Bible, prayer time, accountability partner, etc

b) Commit to pray for each person in your group as they work that plan this week.

**Prayer Thought:** Read **Ephesians 3:14-21** aloud together as your prayer for your group. You might try holding your hands open and upturned in your lap as a sign that you are dependent on Jesus and receiving His work in your lives.

THE GOOD LIFE: Mastering Your Money

Joe Sangl

August 19, 2018

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Find out more about Joe Sangl and his ministry: <http://www.josephsangl.com/>. You can find access to a free class and free resources. \*\*There is also a free group study, “I Was Broke. Now I’m Not.”
2. Consider using one of the free group study videos as part of your time together. Preview the video and be prepared with 2-3 open-ended questions to get your group talking.
3. There are 2,000+ references to money and possessions in the Bible! In the New Testament, 16 of Jesus’ parables deal with these topics and 288 verses in the 4 Gospels speak directly about money! This is not a topic to treat casually! Choose several of the following passages to read and discuss with your group.

**Matthew 6:21, 24 Malachi 3:10**

**1 Timothy 6:10, 17-19 Revelation 3:17**

**Ecclesiastes 5:10 Romans 13:8**

**Psalm 36:16-17 Hebrews 13:5**

**Luke 12:33; 16:11-15 Mark 8:36; 12:41-44**

**1 Chronicles 29:11-12 Leviticus 19:11**

**Proverbs 3:9; 21:5; 21:20; 22:7 Philippians 4:11-13**

**Acts 20:35 2 Timothy 4:7-8**

**Colossians 3:23-24 Exodus 22:25**

1. As you have been reading the Word of God about money and possessions, describe what God’s big ideas seem to be regarding what we earn and own.

**Next Steps:** What is one step you can take toward mastering your money? (Some ideas: regularly scheduled budget conversations with your spouse, tracking earning/spending for one month, cutting an expense or two for a month, taking a Financial Peace class, speaking with a Budget coach, committing to a Biblical study of finances)

**Prayer Thought:** Praise Yahweh Yireh (the Lord our Provider) for His love, His care, His provision for your lives. Confess that you don’t always trust Him with ALL of your finances and possessions- you forget to seek His face when spending and saving and giving. Thank Him that He walks with you, that you do not learn and grow without His Spirit and power. Ask Him to give you wisdom and courage to take steps toward peace in your financial life.

THE GOOD LIFE: Marriage and Family

Pastor Mike Watson and Pastor John Tiernan

August 26, 2018

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. \*Note: We realize that there of many at Grace Church for whom the “Married with Children” label does not currently apply. You might be a youth, someone who is single, or a single parent. In the “Take It Further” boxes of the reading plan this week we have links to helpful articles about these stages of life. The articles themselves include questions for reflection, and may be useful for your group’s discussion. Please find them in the reading plan on the app or at [www.whoisgrace.com/read](http://www.whoisgrace.com/read).
2. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
3. Read **Ephesians 5:1-6:4**.
4. What is the difference between a *contract* and a *covenant*? How does defining marriage as either a contract or a covenant impact our thoughts, words, and actions within marriage and toward our spouse?
5. What is the *fruit* of a family living according to God’s Word in Ephesians 5 and 6? What are specific things that you see and hear from families who are doing this well?
6. Read **Ephesians 6:10-18**. Knowing that the preceding verses are about submission and marriage and family, how does this put new light on this familiar passage about the armor of God? From where (whom) comes the strength, the wisdom, the patience, the desire to be a family who lives the good life?

**Next Steps:** 1- Commit today to pray regularly for your family (spouse, children, parents, siblings) 2- What *fruit* do you want to see in your marriage, in your family? How can *you* take a step today to plant the seed, to water the seed, to nurture the seed of that fruit?

**Prayer Thought:**  Praise God that He is a good father, that He has given us Jesus as the bridgegroom, and we, His Church, are the bride. Confess where you come up short as a spouse, a child, a sibling, etc. Thank God that He does not leave us to figure this family stuff out on our own! Ask Him for wisdom, for patience, for love. Ask Him to protect the hearts, minds, souls of you and your family.

\*If your group, or someone in your group, would like more time to study parenting or marriage, consider one of Rob Rienow’s studies on Right Now Media: “Visionary Marriage,” “Visionary Parenting,” and “Visionary Parenting: Encouragement for the Single Parent.” For free access to RNM, visit [www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia](http://www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia).