

LIFE Community Leader's Guide

Sunday, January 28

Big Idea: Work is Good for the gospel.

Key Verses: 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 (New International Version)

11 Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, 12 so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

Opening Question: How do you find ways to demonstrate the good news of Christ with those you work with?

Study/Discussion Questions:

- Bryan listed the top five answers to the question posed by Randy Kilgore: “What do you want from your Christian colleagues” The answers received were:
 - I wish my Christian coworkers knew more about their faith—what they believed & why.
 - I wish my Christian coworkers had more hope in hard times.
 - I wish my Christian coworkers were more curious with the hard questions about
 - I wish my Christian coworkers behaved more honorably.
 - I wish my Christian coworkers were more compassionate.
- Which of the five statements about Christians in the workplace challenges you the most? How do you plan to address that specific answer/statement?
- Some people would argue that laws about witnessing and “proselytizing” should be disobeyed and any punishment one gets because of breaking those laws should be seen as persecution like the early Christians.
- How do you respond to this different view? What are the dangers in viewing witnessing in this way?
- When is it time to disregard laws, no matter the punishment?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 with the key idea being to work hard – to “just do our job” – in order to win the respect of outsiders. Does this key idea describe your work and work ethic?
- What would you need to change or improve in your work in order for it to “win the respect of outsiders”?
- How would you respond to someone who came and asked you why you work so hard? What kind of response would provide opportunity for more conversation?
- 1 Peter 3:15-16 begins with the phrase – “set apart Christ as Lord”
- Bryan emphasized that work is good for the gospel when the worker has first and foremost given every area of their life and work over to Jesus Christ as Lord. Have you given every area of your life over to Jesus Christ as Lord?
- The Lordship of Christ implies a radical obedience to Him, “it means that there is no part of your life that does not matter to God”. In fact, setting apart Christ as Lord, means setting ourselves apart as His servants (the actual Greek word is sometimes translated as slave). Does this describe who you are as a person who works for God, who “just does their job”? What do you need to change, start or stop to make this true?