

For this series, we want to offer you a prayer to pray before you go to work. Before you go to your job, take time to focus on God and give Him your attention. Pray this prayer and ask Him to help you have His focus rather than your own.

Heavenly Father,

As I work today, I want to serve you. I want to understand this day as a steward would. Give me your perspective. Open my eyes to your purposes and plans because I want to follow you. What do you want me to make better today? How do you want me to serve the people I work for, the people I work with and the people I come in contact with through the work that I do? Show me.

I realize I can't do this on my own. It is by the power of your Holy Spirit at work in me. Holy Spirit come and fill me. Fill me with love, joy, peace, and kindness. Work through me to be faithful to you as I work. Help me see every opportunity from you as you lead me today. By your grace, give me self-control and a heart to forgive. Focus my mind to work hard and love well.

God, I want my job to be less and less about proving my worth, making a name for myself and bringing home a paycheck. As you work in me and through me, bring yourself glory. Remove pride and replace it with a sense of joy because I work to please you above all else. Bear witness through my actions that I have a relationship with you. Remove any temptations to follow foolishness and create in me a passion for your wisdom instead. I anticipate challenges, but I know you will work as I work. Thank you for loving me and giving my life meaning and purpose in you. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Monday:

Read this quote from Timothy Keller from City Church:

"Christians make two opposing mistakes... On the one hand, they may seal off their faith from their work, laboring according to the same values and practices that everyone else uses. On the other hand, they may loudly and clumsily declare their Christian faith to their coworkers, often without showing any grace or wisdom in the way they relate to people on the job."

Do either of these statements ring true for you in your life? If so, which one? Why?

Through this series, we want to learn how to bear witness to our relationship with God to the world around us by making things better. When our work becomes a place for discipleship and a place for us to live as stewards rather than owners, everything changes. We follow Christ. We make work our mission and we do our work for Him.

Read John 12:26

End your time in prayer. If you seal your faith off from work, ask God to help you integrate your faith into what you do each day. If you declare your faith, but treat those you work with in a way that does not honor God or your co-workers, pray and ask God to help your next steps.

Tuesday:

Read this quote by Frederick Buechner:

"Vocation is the place where our deep gladness meets the world's deep need."
What does this mean to you?

During the message this past weekend, Paul explained the difference between the Fortress Model versus the Parish Model. If you did not get a chance to listen to the message, please go to <http://jacobsweltec.org/#message-resources>. When a church lives with the mindset of the Fortress Model, they protect themselves from the world. In fear, they hide inside the walls of the church. When a church lives with the mindset of the Parish model, they gather as the church on the weekends to refuel in worship, but on Monday they scatter into their community. Their individual relationships with God are lived and made known in their homes, schools, and places of employment, making the world a better place.

Take a minute to draw what this looks like to you:



What would change in our world if every church lived the Parish Model?

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Contemplate Jesus' words in correlation to the Parish Model. Spend time in prayer over what you see.

Wednesday:

In your journey with God, have you come to believe that missionary work is only done by paid workers in the church? If so, how did this belief form in you?

If you think differently, what do you believe missionary work is?

Do you realize that every aspect of our lives is mission work? Why or why not?

Yesterday we read Matthew 28:16-20. Read these verses again

When we separate mission work and make it something only paid workers in the church do, we misunderstand discipleship. Do you consider yourself a disciple of Christ? Why or why not? As we live to make things better in the world, we are living as disciples. To be an effective disciple, we live to make Jesus central in everything we do. As the Holy Spirit works in us and through us, our relationship with Jesus speaks to the world around us. For this reason, as Christ-followers our whole lives are a mission. As we live as His disciples,

the people around us see Christ and are impacted by our relationship with God. By the Holy Spirit's work in us and through us, they too may become followers of Christ. God's plan to spread the good news about Jesus comes through people.

As you end your time today please **pray John 15:8**, "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

Thursday:

Reflect on our memory verses for this series:

Colossians 3:17

Colossians 3:23-24

You are serving the Lord Christ. One of the ways our relationship with God expresses itself to those we work with is our work ethic. Are we on time? Do we work hard? Do we keep a positive attitude? Are we honest? Are we reliable? What other examples come to mind?

When we focus more on our work being for God rather than for anything else, one of the things we recognize is how differently we perceive our daily tasks. We work with greater effort and joy. If instead we half-heartedly serve, giving the least we can to get by, we will lose the respect of those we work with. They will resent our efforts. Not only that, but they will not see Christ. What specific step in regards to your work ethic might you need to take?

You may have written down that you need to work harder, or maybe to work with a different attitude. Wherever you are on your journey, give God your work and ask Him to help you wholeheartedly follow Him.

Friday:

Clearly, we share our faith by our actions, just as we talked about yesterday. Sometimes, though, God will provide a moment for us to talk more in detail about our relationship with Him and how He has worked in our lives. Share about a time this may have happened with you.

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

"As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."

With God in His proper place as owner, embracing our day as stewards brings us opportunity to share who God is in our life. We are able to share the steps we have taken on our journeys, and how God has worked to change us from the inside out to become more and more like Jesus.

As you contemplate work as your place in the mission field, what excites you? What concerns you?

End your time praying about your answers to the questions above. Ask God for opportunities to share your relationship with Him to those you work with.

NOTHING ORDINARY

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