

## “MY WORK STATION IS MY WORSHIP STATION”

Do you agree with this statement?

God calls us to the work we are doing. He’s interested not only in what we do but how we do it. Yet, finding purpose at work is one of the greatest challenges in our world today, and many of us struggle to live out our faith from Monday to Friday. Sometimes we label secular and sacred...as if our vocations and callings are secular and our Sundays at church are sacred. We will find in this time together that God had a plan since creation for mankind, even before the Fall. Our Work Matters to God. Our work is worship.

### QUESTIONS

1. **What is your vocation or calling in life?**
2. **What do you like best about that job? What do you like least? How did you get into that line of work?**
3. **What special skills does it require? What unique challenges exist?**

**Note:** Make sure no one apologizes for being a homemaker or retired or a part-timer or a volunteer.

All of us spend a great deal of time doing some sort of work. Today, we are going to answer the question, “Does my work matter to God?” J.D. Greear will look to Scripture and give us a basic theology of work as worship.

### VIEW

Watch Session 1: *Your Work Matters to God* (25 Minutes).

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/content/series/674?episode=1>

# DISCUSSION

## Work: The Big Picture

*How would you describe your work in relation to the Scriptures we have studied today during the video?*

### Genesis 1:28

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

### Genesis 2:15,20

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

### Exodus 31:3–6

I have filled him [Bezalel] with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts ..... Also I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded you.

**1. What do you do?** (Not just job title, but activity.)

**2. Check all that apply.**

\_\_\_ *Do you make the earth, its resources, or its people more fruitful (productive, efficient)?*

\_\_\_ *Do you manage (rule over) the earth, its resources or its people?*

\_\_\_ *Do you take care of (tend) the natural processes of God’s creation?*

\_\_\_ *Do you use your creativity to name (order, organize, describe) the elements of God’s creation?*

\_\_\_ *Do you use God-given skill to design or craft things?*

**3. Briefly describe HOW you do any of the things you just checked.**

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## THE PRACTICE OF WORK AS WORSHIP

This week's practice will help you craft a "Work As Worship" mission statement that pertains to the work you do. It's easy to become robotic in what we do each day without considering how God is interacting with others in the world through the work we do. Colossians 3:23 says "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, rather than people." In this practice, take some time alone and then as a community to craft a mission statement that helps you navigate your daily work, whether that is in the work field or at home. Jesus knew his mission statement. Jesus returned home to Nazareth where he attended Sabbath worship in the synagogue. After receiving a scroll of the book of the prophet Isaiah, Jesus read the following verses aloud:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor (Luke 4:18-19).*

This passage from Isaiah serves as Jesus's mission statement. It reveals Jesus's identity and purpose as the Christ. So, if we want to know what Jesus is all about, we do well to take a closer look at his mission statement.

Before you begin to enter into this practice,

- Find a space that allows you to get rid of any distractions. Sometimes playing soft instrumental music in the background helps bring focus in your worship time.
- Begin this practice with prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to fill you with His power and presence.

Write down answers to these questions.

1. How would you define the work you do?
2. What particular skills, abilities, or passions do you bring to your work?
3. What does it look like, feel like, sound like when you do your work well? *(These could be random words or phrases to describe the experience.)*
4. *(If applicable, and if you know it)* What is your company's mission statement?
5. How does your work help people, contribute to society, or make the world a better

place?

6. How has God used you for his purposes *in your working day*?
7. Are there particular people, people-groups, or types of outreach that you think your work could benefit in a God-inspired way?

*While there's no particular formula, and you might bring other factors into it, consider how you might put together some of your responses into a 1–3 sentence Work Mission Statement.*

### Examples:

As the owner of a coffee shop, my mission is to provide a quality product and a relaxing atmosphere for my customers, a fair salary and opportunities for growth for my employees, and fair-market wages for those workers overseas who supply our raw materials. My work enables people to provide for their families and creates an environment where people can come together in community. I seek to display God's compassion and grace to all I serve.

Or, if you aren't an owner or manager,

Working as a receptionist at a doctor's office, my mission is to provide peace, comfort, and order to people who are suffering, worried, or confused. My work enables the medical staff to use their healing gifts effectively. I seek to radiate God's love as I do this.

**Be willing to share your Work as Worship Mission Statement in community or with your family. It's also very helpful to do this as a family. Craft a Family Work as Worship Mission Statement.**