

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

THE STUFF OF LIFE

Over the next 5 weeks, this mini-series looks at three extraordinary expressions of everyday life – work, rest, and play – recapturing their deep value and significance in God’s design for us and the world around us.



WHEN YOU MEET:

This discussion relates to the teaching from Sunday 5 November

SERMON: <https://georgesriverlifechurch.subspla.sh/nxym5fw>

TESTIMONY TIME: Have one person in the group share what they’ve been learning about Jesus.

PRAY: Share praise points and pain points, and think about who else around us might need prayer (e.g. Israel and Palestine, Russia and Ukraine, Myanmar)

READ: Genesis 1:26–28, Genesis 2:2–3, Genesis 2:15, Genesis 3:17–19, John 5:7, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:17

DISCUSS: *NOTE: the sermon-specific questions are on the next page...*

1. What especially challenges or inspires you in this passage and why?
2. What does this passage reveal about being God’s people in Australia today?
3. What does this passage say about finding and sustaining unity as God’s people?
4. What does this passage reveal about identity or purpose as God’s people?
5. How does this passage lead you to a greater reliance on the Holy Spirit?

PRAY: Take 10 minutes to work through Examen together. You may want to allow a few moments afterwards for people to share what happened. Find more information and audio files on the website:

<https://grlc.org.au/2020/10/08/daily-examen/>

MORE RESOURCES:

- Discipleship Resources Hub: grlc.org.au/discipleship-resources/
- Latest sermon: <https://grlc.org.au/grlc-hub/>



SERMON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:

A couple of weeks ago, Scott talked about vocation as being essential to the everyday stuff of life. Sometimes people confuse work or career with vocation. Vocation may include work or career, but it is so much more!

There is no perfect definition but read the following quotes. **Vocation is:**

- your part in God's story. (John Beckett)
- walking with God in our gifts.
- the outwalking of faithfulness in all of life.
- vocation or calling is a certain kind of life, ordained and imposed on man by God, for the common good. (William Perkins)
- "Vocation is responsibility, and responsibility is the whole response of the whole person to realities as a whole." (Bonhoeffer)
- "A job is a vocation only if someone else calls you to do it and you do it for them rather than for yourself. And so, our work can be a calling only if it is reimagined as a mission of service to something beyond merely our own interests but the interests of God and the needs of others." (Tim Keller)
- "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." (Churchill)
- the intersection of God's priorities, my desires and gifts, and the needs of the world. (Amy Sherman)
- The word vocation is a rich one, having to address the wholeness of life, the range of relationship and responsibilities. Work, yes, but also families and neighbours and citizenship, locally and globally - the of this is a more is seen as vocation, that to which I am called as a human being, living before the face of God. (Steve Garber)
- God's unique call on your life which is an integrated expression of who you've been created to be - your personality, gifts, skills, and passions - and how you live work and relate to others. (Kara Martin)
- All the activities, roles, people, and contexts to which we are called, inspired and enabled by God, for the service of others, and a greater good. (Scott Morrision, GRLC Senior Pastor)

1. Is there 1 or 2 definitions that are most helpful? Try putting vocation into your own words.
2. If this is what vocation is about, discuss the implications for the way we live and experience the Christian life. What does it mean for the wider world? (*Hints: Vocation is more than a paid job. It carries a sense of calling and alignment with who God made you to be. It may benefit you, but it's never just about you. There will be some greater good for those around us because of how we work. There is never just one thing you are called to, and it is never just about church-related work... Everyone is called into full-time ministry.*)
3. What do the following passages tell us about the importance of our calling and purpose in life concerning work: Genesis 1:28-30, Genesis 2:15, Genesis 3:17-19
4. What do we also learn in the following passages: 1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:17
5. To what extent do you believe your work (paid or voluntary) actually matters to God?
6. What are some ways you express your faith in your workplace, and what are the biggest challenges you are finding?
7. What is one thing the group can pray about regarding your paid or voluntary work?