

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Work: Godliness

#### Discuss

Why do you work (this could be paid work; work in retirement; work in the home)?

How do you feel about your work?

Do you look forward to work? Do you dread work? Why?

#### A brief theology of work

- God is a worker (Genesis 2:2)
- Work is a good part of God's creation (Genesis 2:15); we are made to work
- But work is cursed (Genesis 3:17-19; Ecclesiastes 2:22,23) – "the norm for the world is painful toil" (R. Kent Hughes)
- Our attitude to work: "positive but realistic"
- We are redeemed by Christ and look forward to a day when work will be redeemed
- As the redeemed people of God, Jesus is Lord of our work

#### Godliness at work: the challenge

"Our jobs are one of the primary ways God intends to make us more like Jesus."

*(Traeger & Gilbert)*

Colossians 3:22-24

#### *Idolatry of work*

- Where do you root your hope? What brings you satisfaction?
- We are made to worship and work can become an object of that worship
- We are not to worship work but to work as an act of worship

#### Idleness and work

- Do you care too little about work? Is it a necessary evil or a mere means to an end?

- We are not to divorce work from discipleship
- Our work matters to God

### 'Mouse jiggers' pretending to work fired by bank

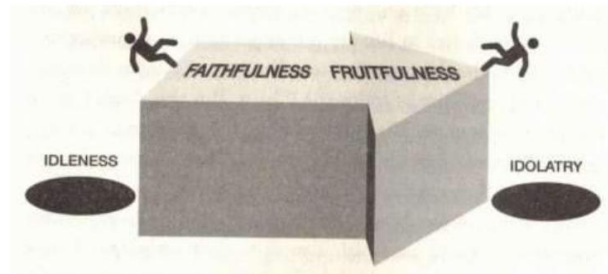
#### Discuss

To which end of the spectrum are you more inclined: idolatry or idleness?

How might your work day look different if you truly believed that God had a purpose for you in your work?

#### Godliness at work: the answer

- The gospel! We are to follow Jesus
- Repent: turn from your idolatry or idleness and remember that you work for King Jesus
- Remember who your boss is and work accordingly
- ... And pray!



#### Discuss

How will remembering that you work for Jesus impact:

- how you speak at work
- how you apply yourself
- your honesty and integrity
- the way that you deal with mistakes?

Share some real life examples.

“Every day is an onward journey of allowing Jesus to be the master of my heart. I try to be humble and gentle and demonstrate my Christian faith, living it out and being consistent in the workplace. And I feel very comfortable with expressing openly that this is such a big part of my life.”

(Yvonne Edwards, quoted in *City Lives: True Stories of Changed Lives from the Workplace* (Nodder, M.)).