

## LIFE GROUP LEADERS GUIDE The Joy of Being God #2 – “The Joy of Working”

### Tips for Leaders

It is so easy to get overfamiliar with the format of our Life Group meetings, just moving from one section to the next. This week, try to include a ‘why’ explanation to each thing you do. For example, as you come to ask the Bible Study why not say something like (please do choose your own words, this is not a script!): “When we gather together we don’t want to just share our opinions, but we want to encounter God together and hear what he has to say. One of the best ways we can do that is study the Bible together. And we’re going to do that now by reviewing the material from Phil’s sermon on Sunday as we first look at Ecclesiastes 5:19 together...”

### CONNECT IN with one another – Icebreaker Questions

What do you like most and what do you like least about your job? *[Help for leaders: Include in this question those whose “job” is job-hunting or is unpaid parenting. It’s about whatever we do in our 9-to-5.]*

### CONNECT UP with God – Bible Study

- Ask somebody to read Ecclesiastes 5:19. Be honest – how aware are you each day of this promise that God wants to make you really happy in your work?
- What are the main things that stop you from experiencing this happiness at work? *[Help for leaders: As with any Bible promise, it’s often unbelief. Watch how quickly the members of your group try to explain away or to dumb down what is promised in Ecclesiastes. Help them to see John 10:10 applies to their workplace too]*
- 2 Corinthians 3:18 tells us that “*We all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory.*” In other words, the way to become as happy as God is to contemplate why he is so gloriously happy. The reason we aren’t as happy as God is that we don’t gaze enough on God to grasp his glory. On Sunday Phil encouraged us to contemplate three things:
  1. God’s delight in his work is an expression of his character (Romans 1:19-23). What difference does it make to know that God created us to be creative like him (Genesis 1:26-27) and that when we work well we give glory to our Creator (Ephesians 2:10)? In what ways can you find delight in your work as an expression of who God has created you to be?
  2. God’s delight in his work is an expression of his wisdom. The vast majority of his creation goes unseen – in space, in the oceans, on the mountaintops, etc – and yet he delights in it. How should this encourage us when we feel that our late nights in the office and/or our late-night nappy-changing goes unnoticed? *[Help for leaders: You may find Colossians 3:17, 22-25 helpful verses to turn to here. If you do note the masters and slaves referenced in this passage parallel our modern employer and employee relationship. Although, do this in a way that doesn’t downplay the righteous anger we should feel towards modern day slavery and the historical abuses of the trans-Atlantic slave trade (among other examples). It’s a nuanced discussion!]*
  3. God’s delight in his work is an expression of his love for his creation. In what ways do your actions at work benefit others – customers, colleagues, consumers and clients? How is it an expression of Christian service to others? What could you start or change in your working day to demonstrate God’s love to others?
- Now re-read Ecclesiastes 5:19. How can we respond as a group to this great promise from God? How can we help one another not to allow the Devil to steal it from us?

### CONNECT OUT with people explore faith around you

- Pray for one another in your workplaces, for a real sense of joy and delight in your work.
- Pray for your work colleagues, that your joy will become contagious and draw people to belief in the happy God who has given you such joy.
- End with a time of worshipping God and of commissioning one another to go to work.