



Study Guide

For Group
Or Personal
Bible Study

Work Smart

Week of July 19, 2009

Warm-Up

What was your very first job?
How much money did you make?

Opening Prayer

Leader or conversational prayer: Welcome God into your study; praise Him for His balanced example of work and rest.

Study & Discussion

- Read Matthew 20:1-16 (You can take turns, but no round-the-circle reading) ☺
- If you were one of the first workers hired, how would you have reacted to the landowner?
- What does this parable say to you about God and His Kingdom?
- Would you say you entered God's kingdom early, in the middle or late in the day?
Do you ever wish you had waited, or feel jealous of others who waited until the "eleventh hour"?
- What's the main reason you work?
- What do you consider to be most stressful about your work?
- What change of attitude might help the way you feel about work?
- On a scale of 1 (little) to 10 (lots), how much do you demonstrate in your work that God is your boss?

- Comparing your energy level and attitude about life to this parable, what "time" is it in your life right now? Example: 6 AM = raring to go; Noon = ready for a break; 6 PM = Satisfied with what I've accomplished; somewhere in between...
- How can this group support you in prayer this week?

Closing Prayer

Conversational prayer: voice your requests to God and others; pray for one another according to the areas just shared; ask God to help you find fulfillment in serving Him through your work.

Resources For Digging Deeper

Life@Work: Marketplace Success for People of Faith by John C. Maxwell, Stephen Graves and Thomas Addington. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005.

Joy at Work: A Revolutionary Approach to Fun on the Job by Dennis W. Bakke. Seattle: PVG, 2005.

More Leadership Lessons of Jesus: A Timeless Model for Today's Leaders. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998.

When The Game Is Over It All Goes Back In The Box by John Ortberg. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2007.

Crazy Love by Frances Chan. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook Publishing, 2008.