

Small Group Material - Fruitfulness on the Frontline

Making Good Work - Col 3.17 - 4.1

Welcome (10 mins) In two or three sentences can you explain to the group the main tasks you have to do *on your frontline* in an average week? Try to keep it brief!

Worship (15 mins)

In a moment of quiet, reflect over the past week and recognise the work you have done. Where has the Holy Spirit been at work through your daily activities?

Get someone to read Ps 25.4-10

Then sing 'I surrender all'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7x2lpLSfq8>

Word (40 mins)

PLAY FILM to end - approx. 9 mins

Questions to discuss after the film (10 mins)

1. *In the video, we saw how Keith the decorator came to view his work in a completely different light. No longer is it just about earning money for himself or even for the church; it's a way of serving God by serving other people.* How does the story help you to see the significance of the tasks you do on your frontline? Think about ways that your work serves others both directly and indirectly.

2. *Often people can think that some roles are more important to God than others. For example, being a missionary or a teacher may be valued more highly than being a business owner or a stay-at-home parent.* Do we ever see attitudes like this in our own thinking? As Christians, why might we want to challenge this view?

Read Colossians 3.17 - 4.1 (20 mins)

(Note to leader: try not to get sidetracked into a discussion on the role of wives and husbands! - but try to stay focussed on the bigger picture of the dignity and value of the work we do on our frontlines.)

1. What would have been remarkable in these instructions of Paul to the people of his day? (Wives and husbands, fathers and children, masters and slaves)
2. What attitudes does Paul encourage in our dealings with one another?
3. How does Paul tell us to do 'whatever we do'? And why? (v17,23-25)
4. *Mark Greene writes, 'Genesis 1 & 2 give a picture of God designing work to be good for the human race. Work is an opportunity to join in with what God is doing – to co-work with him to make the world a better place. It's only later in chapter 3 that work becomes frustrating, marred by the Fall. God's original purpose is for our daily tasks to be part of God's good purposes for the world.'* How can you find meaning and purpose in your work? Do you?
5. It's easy to turn to God in times of crisis. How might we develop a rhythm of prayer that invites God to work with us in our day-to-day tasks so that we are always working in his strength?
Pray for eyes to see how your everyday tasks matter and play a part in God's big plans for the world.

Witness (15mins)

We are encouraging each group to particularly support at least one of St Mary's 'mission partners'. This is not financially but in prayer. Many groups, I know, already pray for a ministry, outreach or person regularly, perhaps because of some involvement through a member of the group.

Discuss as a group who you are/would like to pray for. (See separate document with a list of possibilities). In this way you can get more intentional in prayer. It might be good to consider one home-based or Chippy ministry and one which is further afield or abroad.

Can you let your Small Group Pastor know so we can build up a picture of all the groups?
Spend some time praying for these ministries/people.