

Overview

Work is integral to who we are as human beings. Work is the means by which we express our creativity in living as disciples. It shapes our identity and it has deep impression on our psychological, social and spiritual well being. Above all then, we may say that work is fundamental because it is to do with how we collaborate with God, how we are partners with God. Work is so much more than having a paid job and it has many different forms. This unit offers an introduction to these themes and begins to explore them from the perspective of living faithfully and hopefully.

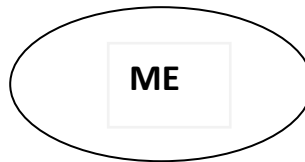
This is your worksheet; for notes, ideas and questions

Activity

My Work – An Audit

Looking at all the different parts of your life, including your family, hobbies and interests, what kind of work do you do (paid or unpaid)?

The different kinds of work I do



Activity

Fulfilment and Frustration

Look back at all the different kinds of work you do. Are there any consistent themes about what you find fulfilling or frustrating?

Perspective

"The glory of God is a human being fully alive; and to be alive consists in beholding God."
St Irenaeus

So, when we are most fully alive, that is when we reveal the glory of God.

Discussion

When we are most fully alive, that is when we reveal the glory of God. Re-visit your audit of 'what' you do. How does this idea of St Irenaeus relate to our previous discussion about fulfilment and frustration?

Question

What are all the ways in which I am creative?

Perspective

Born to Work in Partnership with God


Having been made in God's image, we are called to be God's representatives. We are God's hands and feet working in partnership with God in his world. In Genesis chapter 2 we are told that God placed Adam in the garden to till it and keep it, to cultivate it and conserve. Thus God's creative work is linked with our creativity – a creativity which designed both to preserve what God has give and to build on it through further creative ventures, using the resources God has provided. The 'tilling' suggests that we have a role [part] to play in helping prepare things so that the potential for growth which God has placed in them can be realised.

From 'Where's God on Monday?' by Alistair Mackenzie (NavPress 2002)

Question

In what ways do you see yourself as working as partners with God through your work ?

During the week you might like to reflect on:



How might your work
be a blessing to others?

Ponder

What did you learn from this session and what difference might this make to my discipleship?

Closing Prayer

Lord,
Whatever we build,
Give us a glimpse of glory.
Whatever we make,
Give us a sense of wonder.
Wherever we travel,
Give us a sense of reverence.
Whoever we meet,
Give us a sense of awe.
Whatever we do,
Give us a sense of achievement.
Whatever our situation,
Give us knowledge of you.
Help us to see that everything is in your care
And that you allow us to share in your glory

From 'Powerlines: Celtic Prayers About Work' by David Adam (Triangle, 1992)