

## **SESSION 1 – TENSION**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. A Man and His Work
2. Work is a \_\_\_\_\_ force in the life of every man creating tensions that must be balanced.
3. Most of us have never engaged in a deliberate \_\_\_\_\_ that helps us reflect deeply on God’s design and purpose for work.
4. Work can be exhilarating, fulfilling and purposeful.
5. We want to give a new \_\_\_\_\_ of the nature and purpose of work.

### **II. WHAT WE WANT FROM WORK**

1. We all want to be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - o We all want to be good at what we do for a living.
2. We want to be fairly compensated for a job well done.
3. We want the \_\_\_\_\_ job fit.
4. We want to know our work matters.
  - o We want more than success, we want our work to be \_\_\_\_\_ and significant.

### **III. CONVENTIONAL RESPONSES TO WORK**

1. Disengaged
  - o \_\_\_\_\_ of American workers are either “not engaged” or “actively disengaged” at work.
  - o This misunderstanding has been robbing men of truth, passion and purpose ever since sin entered the world.

2. Disappointed
  - Less than half of US workers report being \_\_\_\_\_ with their job; and a third are disappointed in the amount of money they earn and the amount of stress in their jobs.
3. Over-engaged
  - 86% of American men report working more than 40 hours in a typical week while taking fewer vacation days than people in most countries.
  - Many men often over-engage in work because they are \_\_\_\_\_ it over everything else in life.
4. Underworking
  - This response often springs from a lack of personal ambition or career \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **IV. THE HISTORICAL ERAS OF WORK**

1. Agricultural Era
  - The identity and value of a man was most often tied to his relationship with his \_\_\_\_\_ and his community rather than his work.
  - As late as 1890, 40% of the US population still listed their occupation as farming. Today, less than 1% of the US population list their occupation as farming.
2. Industrial Era
  - During the industrial era, we see an emphasis on efficiency and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The mass production of the industrial era also enabled mass consumption.
  - Work became the \_\_\_\_\_ way men defined themselves.
3. Informational Era
  - This era is defined by the use of technology to replace workers and familiarity with technology is a minimal requirement for many jobs.
  - The informational era is defined by innovation.

## V. TENSIONS FROM THE HISTORICAL ERAS OF WORK

1. Many of you are experiencing a real blurring between \_\_\_\_\_ and your work.
  - o “In contemporary technological civilization, which can boast of remarkable labor-saving innovations, human beings paradoxically work more than they have ever worked before... Increasingly, people’s lives today alternate between frenzied work and frenzied play. Rest has been driven out of leisure.”  
- Miroslav Volf
2. Another tension that many of you may feel is having to change jobs or careers multiple times.
  - o Change has become the \_\_\_\_\_ not the exception.
3. The potential for vocational \_\_\_\_\_ between fathers and sons.
  - o It is not as easy for a dad to be involved in a son’s vocational development.

## VI. CONCLUSION

1. We are going to take you through a \_\_\_\_\_ process and equip you with a God-sized vision of work.
2. We will show you God’s original intention for work.

## DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How does your job create tension in your life? Explain.
2. Bryan talked about four things all men want from work: success, fair compensation, a good fit, and meaning. Are any items on that list presently eluding you or creating frustration in your job?
3. Are you more prone to disengage, feel disappointed, over-engage, or underwork in your occupation? How have you tried to resist these conventional responses to work?
4. Bryan noted that during the informational age men have experienced a blurring between their work and leisure. He quoted one expert who stated that “people’s lives today alternate between frenzied work and frenzied play. Rest has been driven out of leisure.” Are there clear boundaries between your work and your leisure? How has the informational era created tensions in your work life?
5. How did your dad’s view of work affect you? Was there ever any vocational tension between you and your parents?

## **ANSWERS**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. A Man and His Work
2. Work is a **dominant** force in the life of every man creating tensions that must be balanced.
3. Most of us have never engaged in a deliberate **process** that helps us reflect deeply on God's design and purpose for work.
4. Work can be exhilarating, fulfilling and purposeful.
5. We want to give a new **perspective** of the nature and purpose of work.

### **II. WHAT WE WANT FROM WORK**

1. We all want to be **successful**.
  - o We all want to be good at what we do for a living.
2. We want to be fairly compensated for a job well done.
3. We want the **right** job fit.
4. We want to know our work matters.
  - o We want more than success, we want our work to be **purposeful** and significant.

### **III. CONVENTIONAL RESPONSES TO WORK**

1. Disengaged
  - o **71%** of American workers are either "not engaged" or "actively disengaged" at work.
  - o This misunderstanding has been robbing men of truth, passion and purpose ever since sin entered the world.

2. Disappointed
  - Less than half of US workers report being **satisfied** with their job; and a third are disappointed in the amount of money they earn and the amount of stress in their jobs.
3. Over-engaged
  - 86% of American men report working more than 40 hours in a typical week while taking fewer vacation days than people in most countries.
  - Many men often over-engage in work because they are **prioritizing** it over everything else in life.
4. Underworking
  - This response often springs from a lack of personal ambition or career **vision**.

#### **IV. THE HISTORICAL ERAS OF WORK**

1. Agricultural Era
  - The identity and value of a man was most often tied to his relationship with his **family** and his community rather than his work.
  - As late as 1890, 40% of the US population still listed their occupation as farming. Today, less than 1% of the US population list their occupation as farming.
2. Industrial Era
  - During the industrial era, we see an emphasis on efficiency and **profit**.
  - The mass production of the industrial era also enabled mass consumption.
  - Work became the **dominant** way men defined themselves.
3. Informational Era
  - This era is defined by the use of technology to replace workers and familiarity with technology is a minimal requirement for many jobs.
  - The informational era is defined by innovation.

## V. TENSIONS FROM THE HISTORICAL ERAS OF WORK

1. Many of you are experiencing a real blurring between **leisure** and your work.
  - o “In contemporary technological civilization, which can boast of remarkable labor-saving innovations, human beings paradoxically work more than they have ever worked before... Increasingly, people’s lives today alternate between frenzied work and frenzied play. Rest has been driven out of leisure.”  
- Miroslav Volf
2. Another tension that many of you may feel is having to change jobs or careers multiple times.
  - o Change has become the **norm** not the exception.
3. The potential for vocational **tension** between fathers and sons.
  - o It is not as easy for a dad to be involved in a son’s vocational development.

## VI. CONCLUSION

1. We are going to take you through a **deliberate** process and equip you with a God-sized vision of work.
2. We will show you God’s original intention for work.