

SESSION 2 – Blueprint

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This session will give you a God-inspired, gospel-centered vision for your work. We're calling it our Biblical _____ for work.
2. We will answer three big questions:
 - What is work?
 - What are we to do in our work?
 - Who are we to be in our work?

II. BIBLICAL BLUEPRINT PART 1: WHAT IS WORK?

1. The conventional view of work is that it's just a _____, a paid position of regular employment.
 - It's just a job and a means to a paycheck.
 - The ultimate goal is retirement.
2. From God's perspective, work is more than just a job; it's a vocation.
 - A vocation is both _____ and purposeful.
 - It's personal: God calls every man to work. It's part of His plan for our lives.
 - It's purposeful: It's more than just an endless to-do list. It's participating in something God is doing in the world through us.
 - "For we are [God's] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."
Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)
 - Work is so much more than just gainful employment or a necessary evil or only a means to paying the bills.
 - A vocational perspective allows you to bring a totally different _____ to work. It reshapes everything you do in your work.
3. What is work? It's a vocation – God's personal and purposeful call on your life.

III. BIBLICAL BLUEPRINT PART 2: WHAT ARE WE TO DO IN WORK?

1. God Himself is a worker and He _____ work for mankind by creating and cultivating.
 - “In the beginning, God _____ the heavens and the earth.”
Genesis 1:1 (ESV)
 - God _____ His work by building and environment where it could flourish.
2. Mankind was made to _____ God’s work by creating and cultivating and by helping develop God’s world to its full potential.
 - “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; ... And God blessed [mankind]. And God said ... ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”
Genesis 1:27-28 (ESV)
 - “The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” Genesis 2:15 (ESV)
3. God made _____ over His creation to care for it, bring order to it, and develop it to its full potential for the benefit of mankind and for the glory of God.
 - “God left creation with deep untapped potential for cultivation that people were to unlock through their labor ... [and] we are called to stand in for God here in the world exercising stewardship over the rest of creation in his place as his vice-regents. We share in doing the things that God has done in creation – bringing order out of chaos, creatively building civilizations out of the material of physical and human nature, caring for all that God has made. This a major part of what we were created to be ... [Work] is rearranging the raw material of God’s creation in such a way that it helps the world in general, and people in particular, thrive and flourish.” – Tim Keller
 - Our work is a way we can _____ the world and make it a better place.
 - Understanding work from God’s perspective helps us to see how our work is a way we can develop the world and make it a better place in such a way that ultimately brings glory to the Creator of it all.
 - “Take the portion of my kingdom ... I am making you my steward over your office, your workbench, your kitchen stove. Put your heart into mastering this part of my world. Get it in order; unearth its treasure; do all you can with it. ... We

don't labor simply to survive, insects do that ... [instead] God has given each of us a portion of His kingdom to explore and develop to its fullness." - Richard Pratt, *Designed for Dignity*

- You can begin to live out this _____ of work right now.
- 4. Create and cultivate – that means using our God-given time, talents, and resources to bring things into existence and develop, order, and manage them for the benefit of mankind and for the _____ of God.

IV. BIBLICAL BLUEPRINT PART 3: WHO ARE WE TO BE IN OUR WORK?

1. Jesus came to earth to save us and to be God's perfect _____ to provide an example of how mankind is to engage in all of life, including our work life.
 - Through Jesus, we can be forgiven of all our sins and adopted into God's family.
 - In his 33 years on earth, Jesus also gave us an _____ to follow, an inspiration for how we are to live.

"Jesus as a matter of fact is a Brother to us as well as a Savior – an elder Brother whose steps we may follow. The imitation of Jesus has a fundamental place in the Christian life; it is perfectly correct to represent Him as our supreme and only perfect example." - J. Gresham Machen

- Jesus calls us to not only believe in Him, but also to _____ Him.
 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)
 - "Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:27 (ESV)
 - "Whoever says that he abides in [Jesus] ought to walk in the same way in which [Jesus] walked." 1 John 2:6 (ESV)
 - "Look to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." Hebrews 12:2
- 2. Jesus set the example for mankind by being a "_____ presence" in all areas of His life including His work.
 - Wherever Jesus went things got better and others flourished. Whatever He was doing, people experienced Him as a life-giving presence.
 - "This first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam, [Jesus], became a

life-giving spirit.” 1 Corinthians 15:45 (ESV)

- “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35 (ESV)
 - Jesus said: “I came that they may have _____ and have it abundantly.” John 10:10 (ESV)
 - “Our model is the Jesus, not only the Jesus of Calvary, but the Jesus of the workshop, of the roads, and of the demands and oppositions.” - C.S. Lewis
3. Three powerful ways men can be a life-giving presence in their work:
- Provision – provide for others
 - Attitude – have an attitude of _____
 - Excellence – perform our jobs with excellence
 - A Life-Giving Presence: being present, dependable, and excellent in our work with an attitude of humility for the benefit of others and for the glory of God.

DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. As you view your work as a vocation, not just as a job, how would you explain it as both personal to you and purposeful as part of God's bigger story?
2. What does it look like for you, whether your work is blue-collar or white-collar, to create and cultivate in your occupation? Discuss how both blue-collar and white-collar workers can follow the create and cultivate mandate.
3. J. Gresham Machen once said: "Jesus as a matter of fact is a Brother to us as well as a Savior – and elder Brother whose steps we may follow. The imitation of Jesus has a fundamental place in Christian life; it is perfectly correct to represent Him as our supreme and only perfect example." Do you agree with this quote? If so, what does that mean for our lives as men?
4. Tierce mentioned three ways we can all be a life-giving presence in our work: provision, attitude, and excellence. Name some specific ways you can be a life-giving presence in your work.

ANSWERS

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1. God Himself is a worker and He **modeled** work for mankind by creating and cultivating.
 - “In the beginning, God **created** the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1 (ESV)
 - God **cultivated** His work by building and environment where it could flourish.
2. Mankind was made to **imitate** God’s work by creating and cultivating and by helping develop God’s world to its full potential.
 - “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; ... And God blessed [mankind]. And God said ... ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’” Genesis 1:27-28 (ESV)
 - “The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” Genesis 2:15 (ESV)
3. God made **us stewards** over His creation to care for it, bring order to it, and develop it to its full potential for the benefit of mankind and for the glory of God.
 - “God left creation with deep untapped potential for cultivation that people were to unlock through their labor ... [and] we are called to stand in for God here in the world exercising stewardship over the rest of creation in his place as his vice-regents. We share in doing the things that God has done in creation – bringing order out of chaos, creatively building civilizations out of the material of physical and human nature, caring for all that God has made. This a major part of what we were created to be ... [Work] is rearranging the raw material of God’s creation in such a way that it helps the world in general, and people in particular, thrive and flourish.” – Tim Keller
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- You can begin to live out this **vision** of work right now.
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