



Getting to Know You...

Describe the longest and most challenging day of work you have ever experienced. What made it so challenging?
How did you feel when you were finally done?



Opening Prayer:

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Digging In: Please review Jesus parable from Matthew 20:1-16.

- Back up one chapter in the Bible. Search for connections between Matthew 19 and the parable of the workers in the vineyard.
 - What situation prompted Jesus to tell this parable?
 - What phrase is repeated in chapter 19 & 20?

- Please read Jonah 3:5 - 4:4. Compare Jonah to the first workers in the vineyard.
 - ⇒ Keep in mind that the people of Nineveh were known for their cruelty to the nations they conquered. Can you think of a modern “Nineveh” to whom we may be hesitant to share God’s Word?
- Discuss what these passages say about the blessings of work.
 - ⇒ Genesis 2:15
 - ⇒ Ecclesiastes 2:24-25
 - ⇒ John 5:17
 - ⇒ 1 Corinthians 15:58
- The second Scripture lesson from Sunday was Philippians 1:18 - 27. Read through these verses again and discuss what they say about our goal in work and life.

Application:

- In his sermon, pastor shared a story of a woman who said that if God allowed a murderer into heaven, she didn’t want to have anything to do with God. How would you respond to her?
- A friend of yours feels as though he is in a “dead-end job” at work and he struggles to find a meaningful way to get involved at church. How might you counsel him?
- In the parable, the landowner searched for workers to go into his vineyard. How does God recruit people for service in his kingdom? How might you assist with the recruitment effort?

Closing Prayer Suggestion: Use Hymn 542 (Christian Worship) or search for the song “Your Labor is Not in Vain” by Wendell Kimbrough on YouTube.