



# SESSION 1: CREATED TO WORK

*The maid who sweeps her kitchen is doing the will of God just as much as the monk who prays—not because she may sing a Christian hymn as she sweeps but because God loves clean floors.*

**Martin Luther**

*Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.*

**Theodore Roosevelt**

*There is no ordinary work. The work God has called you to do is extraordinary. Don't miss out on God's best by taking an ordinary approach to it.*

**Tom Nelson**

## ***Books***

- *Work Matters, chapter one* (Tom Nelson)
- *Every Good Endeavor, part one* (Timothy Keller with Katherine Leary Alsdorf)
- *Work: The Meaning of Your Life* (Lester DeKoster)
- *The First Chapters of Everything* (Alasdair Paine)
- *God's Big Picture* (Vaughan Roberts)

## ***Online***

- Do Executive Jobs Have More Kingdom Value Than Dirty Jobs? (audio) [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources411](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources411)
- 4 Reasons Why God Wills Work: [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources412](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources412)
- God the Great Janitor? [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources413](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources413)
- 5 Ways to Honor Work in Church Services: [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources414](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources414)
- Tim Keller on Why Work Matters (video): [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources415](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources415)
- Work is a Glorious Thing: [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources416](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources416)
- The TGCvocations column asks practitioners about their jobs and how they integrate faith with work.  
See [www.thegospelcoalition.org/channel/faith-and-work](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/channel/faith-and-work)



## SESSION 2: WORK AND THE FALL

*Understanding this part of the Bible's story and work's place in it is actually crucial for us as Christians, because it helps explain why our work will always, to some degree or another, be marked by frustration. It shouldn't surprise us that work is difficult and painful sometimes.*

**Sebastian Traeger & Greg Gilbert**

*If you get mad at your Mac laptop and wonder who designed this demonic device, notice the manufacturer's icon on top: an apple with a bite out of it.*

**Peter Kreeft**

### ***Books***

- *Every Good Endeavor, part two* (Timothy Keller with Katherine Leary Alsdorf)
- *Work Matters, chapter two* (Tom Nelson)
- *The Gospel at Work, chapters one and two* (Sebastian Traeger and Greg Gilbert)

### ***Online***

- When Our Career Plans Aren't Panning Out:  
[gospelshapedchurch.org/resources421](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources421)
- Dear Graduates, A Glorious Commencement Awaits:  
[gospelshapedchurch.org/resources422](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources422)
- Lost Jobs, Found Church:  
[gospelshapedchurch.org/resources423](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources423)



## SESSION 3: RENEWED WORK



*No more let sin or sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found.*

**Isaac Watts**

*Difficulties, disappointments, discouragements, and suffering are a part  
of every work experience, but they need not be seen as obstacles to God's purposes  
in our lives.*

**Tom Nelson**

*Work saves us from three great evils: boredom, vice and greed.*

**Voltaire**



### ***Books***

- *Romans 8 – 16 For You*, chapter three (Timothy Keller)
- *Eternity Changes Everything* (Stephen Witmer)
- *The Gospel at Work*, chapter four (Sebastian Traeger and Greg Gilbert)
- *Gospel-Centered Work* (Tim Chester)
- *Explicit Gospel* (Matt Chandler)

### ***Online***

- Rethinking Heaven: [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources431](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources431)
- Say Goodbye to Lifeboat Theology: [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources432](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources432)
- When Faith Meets Work (video):  
[gospelshapedchurch.org/resources433](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources433)



## SESSION 4: GLORIFYING GOD THROUGH WORK

*Calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion and dynamism lived out as a response to his summons and service.*

**Os Guinness**

*It is often hard to get Christians to see that God is willing not just to use men and women in ministry, but in law, in medicine, in business, in the arts. This is the great shortfall today.*

**Dick Lucas**

*Living out my faith in my work seemed relegated to small symbolic gestures, to self-righteous abstinence from certain behaviors, and to political alignments on the top cultural and legal issues of the day.*

**Katherine Leary Alsdorf**

### ***Books***

- *The Call* (Os Guinness)
- *God at Work, chapters ten to eleven* (Gene Veith)
- *Gospel Centered Discipleship* (Jonathan Dodson)
- *Discipleship Matters* (Peter Maiden)
- *Questioning Evangelism* (Randy Newman)

### ***Online***

- Don't Track Your Success: [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources441](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources441)
- Your Job is God's Assignment: [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources442](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources442)
- Workplace Culture: Pain, Possibility and Empowerment (video): [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources443](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources443)
- Lay Aside the Weight of Restless Work: [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources444](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources444)
- 100,000 Hours: Eight Aims for your Career: [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources445](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources445)



## SESSION 5: THE GOSPEL AND YOUR WORK

*Most people seek God in mystical experiences, spectacular miracles, and extraordinary acts they have to do. To find him in vocation brings him, literally, down to earth, makes us see how close he really is to us, and transfigures everyday life.*

**Gene Veith**

*I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble.*

**Helen Keller**

*You work for Jesus. That fact is the most important thing you can know and remember about your work.*

**Sebastian Traeger & Greg Gilbert**

### ***Books***

- *The Bible Speaks Today Commentary: Colossians & Philemon (Dick Lucas)*
- *Every Good Endeavor, part three (Timothy Keller with Katherine Leary Alsdorf)*
- *Time for Every Thing? (Matt Fuller)*
- *1 Peter For You, chapters seven and eight (Juan Sanchez)*
- *The Stories We Tell (Mike Cospoer)*

### ***Online***

- How to Witness at Work: [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources451](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources451)
- How the Gospel Prepares your Heart for Work (video): [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources452](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources452)
- Applying Scripture to your Work (video): [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources453](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources453)
- What Makes Work "Christian"? [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources454](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources454)
- How to Build a Faithful Witness in your Workplace: [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources455](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources455)



## SESSION 6: WORK AND POWER

*We are not to choose jobs and conduct our work to fulfill ourselves and accrue power ... we are to see work as a way of service to God and our neighbor.*

**Timothy Keller**

*When God grants us power—and he does in many ways—his aim is that he will be glorified by the way that power is used.*

**John Piper**

### ***Books***

- *Living in the Light: Money, Sex & Power* (John Piper)
- *Rescuing Ambition* (Dave Harvey)
- *Generous Justice* (Timothy Keller)

### ***Online***

- 5 Ways to Help the “Least of These” in the Church:  
[gospelshapedchurch.org/resources461](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources461)
- Is Your Gospel Too Small? [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources462](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources462)
- The One Who Showed Mercy: [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources463](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources463)
- To Quit or Not to Quit: [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources464](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources464)
- Humanizing Work Through Leadership (video):  
[gospelshapedchurch.org/resources365](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources365)



# SESSION 7: WORK AND THE COMMON GOOD



*We have always known that heedless self-interest was bad morals;  
we now know that it is bad economics.*

**Franklin D. Roosevelt**

*There simply isn't time to do everything that we desire. There really isn't  
time to do every thing. But there is time for everything God wants us to  
do. His to-do list does get done. Can you see what an exhilarating and  
liberating truth this is?*

**Matt Fuller**



## ***Books***

- *Economic Shalom* (John Bolt)
- *The Poverty of Nations* (Wayne Grudem and Barry Asmus)
- *What's Best Next* (Matt Perman)
- *Living in the Light: Money, Sex & Power* (John Piper)
- *Money Counts* (Graham Beynon)

## ***Online***

- Cultivating Gospel Readiness at Work:  
[gospelshapedchurch.org/resources471](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources471)
- Amazon: Easy to Critique, Easier to One-Click:  
[gospelshapedchurch.org/resources472](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources472)
- Why All Christians Must Seek Public Justice:  
[gospelshapedchurch.org/resources473](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources473)
- Why Business Matters to God (video):  
[gospelshapedchurch.org/resources474](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources474)



## SESSION 8: WHAT WE ARE WORKING TOWARD

“ God will have work for us in heaven—and we ought to be glad for this! After all, if all we did in heaven was sit around with nothing to do, we’d get very bored.

**Billy Graham**

*I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now.*

**C.S. Lewis**

*There is a God, there is a future healed world that he will bring about, and your work is showing it (in part) to others. Your work will be only partially successful, on your best days, in bringing that world about. But inevitably ... beauty harmony, justice, comfort, joy and community will come to fruition.*

**Timothy Keller**”

### ***Books***

- *Work Matters*, chapter four (Tom Nelson)
- *Heaven* (Randy Alcorn)
- *Eternity Changes Everything* (Stephen Witmer)

### ***Online***

- Rethinking Heaven: [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources481](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources481)
- The Basics of a Biblical Theology of Work: [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources482](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources482)
- The Justice Paradox (video): [gospelshapedchurch.org/resources483](http://gospelshapedchurch.org/resources483)