

SESSION 5 — THE GOSPEL REFRAMES EVERYTHING ABOUT WORK

Before Session Five, you will need to download and print copies of the case study and the handout titled My Identity in Christ for each participant. You will also need to download a copy of the video for Session Five.

Welcome

Welcome to week five of Monday's Calling! Today we are going to look at a case study and discuss how the Gospel – the Good News of Jesus - reframes everything about our work. Before we begin, let's open with prayer.

Open in Prayer

Lord, we thank You for Your sacrifice for us on the cross and for establishing us as Your royal children. Thank you for dying for us so all things in our lives could be redeemed – including our work. Guide our conversations today. We want to understand and live our lives from Your perspective bringing glory to You in our homes, our work, and the world. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Explain, "The Gospel really is good news. Through the finished work of Jesus on the cross, we were transferred from the Kingdom of Darkness into the Kingdom of Light (Col. 1:13). We have been established as children of God (John 1:12). We are already seated in the heavenlies with Christ (Eph. 2:6). Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we now have God living in us (Rom. 8:10). He will never leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5), and greater is He who is in us that he who is in the world (1 Jn. 4:4)."

Have someone read Ephesians 1:3-14. Have someone else read Colossians 3:1-17.

Question 1 – How does the finished work of Christ - knowing that you are already seated in the heavenlies with God and the Lord is working through you to help restore creation, change the way you view your work?

(Tip – You really want the participants to leave this lesson with both a deeper understanding of their identity in Christ and how the fact they are a new creation changes everything – including their work. We are no longer a slave to the sin nature – we have God living in us to help us overcome the world)

Have someone read Roman 6:1-7

Question 2 – How does understanding that you have the Spirit of God, the power of God, living inside of you help you face challenging situations at work?



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Case Study

Give each participant a copy of the case study. Ask someone read the case study aloud, then discuss the following questions.

Discussion

Question 3 – Have you ever worked for someone like David?

(Tip – It is important the participants understand that we cannot control the way people behave towards us, but we are responsible for our response to the sins committed against us and the wrongs done to us.)

Question 4 - What options are available to Jalen in response to David's management style?

Question 5 - What impact would Jalen's actions likely have on non-Christian co-workers?

Question 6 - If David was an active member of a well-known church in the community, what is the likely impact on his non-Christian employees? Christian employees?

Video

Show the video.

Discussion

Question 7 - How did David's sin nature impact Jalen's work and his response/attitude to/about work?

Question 8 – As a new Christian, Jalen had not learned to take control of his mind and respond from the place of his identity in Christ. How did Jalen's sinful response impact his work and his attitude to/about work?

Question 9 - How do your sinful responses impact your work and your attitude about work?

Question 10 - How would a Gospel-centered focus and living from a place of your identity in Christ reframe your work situation?



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Identity in Christ

Explain, "It is crucial we understand our identity in Christ. The closer we grow to God and the better we understand His good plans for our lives, the more we will learn to respond to the challenges of life from a place of victory. We are not victims; we are overcomers. We have the resources of Heaven backing us up. I am giving you a handout titled My Identity in Christ. All the concepts contained in the sheet are grounded in scripture."

Give each person a copy of the handout My Identity in Christ. Have the class recite the message together. Recommend they read the passage aloud every morning for a month to help ground themselves in the truth of their identity in Christ.

Close in Prayer

Close using a Popcorn prayer. Ask one person in the group to open the prayer and another person to close the prayer.

(Tip – It is good to ask people you know are comfortable praying out loud–those who have prayed regularly during Popcorn Prayers).

Closing Announcement

Next week is our final session of Monday's Calling. We will finish exploring how the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus, reframes everything about our work.

During the Week

Pray for the people in your class.

Lord, I lift each participant to You in prayer. I ask that You enlighten the eyes of their hearts, that they would know the hope to which You have called them, and the riches of their glorious inheritance in Christ. That they would understand the immeasurable greatness of Your power toward us, who believe - the same power that raised Christ from the dead. Father, ground and root them in the truth of their identity in Christ. Refresh them, renew them, and empower them with your Spirit. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Midweek (Between your sessions) e-mail all the participants;

Good evening! I am looking forward to our final session of Monday Calling on (insert day and time). This week we finish examining how the Gospel – the Good News of Jesus – changes everything about our work.

This week, I encourage you to spend some time with the Lord reading and meditating on Ephesians 1:3-14 and Colossians 3:1-17. Both passages contain a wealth of information about the new identity God bestowed on you when you came to faith in Christ. May the Lord give each of you a deeper revelation of His love and truth.