



MONDAY'S CALLING

LEADER GUIDE

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SESSION 1 — WORK IS GOD'S DESIGN

Be sure to bring with you hard copies of the Case Study Handout for Session 1, a Bible, notebook, and pen. Before starting, make sure you are set up to play the video from Session 1 on the website as well.

Welcome

As the participants arrive, have them sign in and share their e-mail addresses.

Before opening in prayer, have the members introduce themselves.

Open in Prayer

Lord, I thank you for this opportunity to be together and study Your perfect design for our work. Open our minds to understand your perspective. Lead and guide our conversations. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Introduction and Overview

Monday's Calling is a small group study designed for people who work in the marketplace, which is defined as anywhere outside of church and parachurch organizations. The goal of the class is to help you understand your work from God's perspective – as part of His good plan for your life. During the six week study, we will explore work as God's good design for our lives; we will learn how we can glorify God through our work in the marketplace; and we will see how the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus, reframes everything about our work. During weeks one, three, and five, we will use case studies and short video teaching to aid our discussions. During weeks two, four, and six, we will listen to audio lessons as part of the class. Let's start with our first case study.

Case Study

(Tip - As you ask the students questions, allow time for them to respond. Don't be afraid of silence. During the session, make sure everyone answers several times. Gently call upon those who are quiet, asking their opinion.)

Pass out a copy of the case study to all the participants. Ask one of the participants to read the case study aloud to the group then facilitate a discussion by asking the questions below.

Question 1: How would you describe Jack's attitude about his work?

(Tip - As people respond, you can feedback what they said, giving everyone a chance to hear the concept a second time. If the students do not touch on the points below, mention them at the end of the discussion on this question. This is not an all-inclusive list, but they are key points you don't want people to miss.)

- Jack does not think his work is part of God's good plan for the world.
- Jack does not believe his work is important.
- Jack believes he must be leading people to Christ for his work to be meaningful.
- Jack has a mental division between the sacred and secular.



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Question 2: Do you believe Jack doing his job with excellence is as important as ministry?

- Yes, God designed work.
- Unbelievers are watching.

Have someone read Colossians 3:23-24

Ask a few questions to help them reflect on the scripture:

- For whom do we work? (God).
- Who gets an inheritance? (All people who are working).
- Why do you think that is? (Our work is important to God).

Take a minute and have people ask themselves and reflect on these questions – Do I get my validation from God? Or my work? Or my performance? Or what others think of me?

(Tip – As a leader, you will want to be intentional about allowing a time of silence for people to reflect on these questions. The Lord has drawn each person to this class, and He will be faithful to bring revelation if you allow time for Him to work.)

Question 3: Could Jack do something meaningful for Christ in an accounting career?

(If no one mentions stewardship of assets in the discussion, bring it up before moving on. Stewardship of assets is important to God. Not only did Jesus talk a lot about money, but lessons about money are found throughout the Bible. At the end of an audit, the auditors advise clients on how to better steward assets. That is Kingdom work.)

Explain: The Kingdom of God (KOG) is the rule and reign of God. When the KOG breaks in, darkness is pushed back and human flourishing occurs. If we start to think about our careers in terms of increasing human flourishing, it changes our worldview.

Question 4: Do you see your job as contributing to human flourishing?

Question 5: What are the key issues troubling Jack?

(If the group has already talked about the issues in their discussion – skip the question)

One issue Jack sees is the prevailing culture setting up a wall between the “sacred” and the “secular.”

Show the Video

Question 6: How should a biblical understanding of work influence Jack's attitude about his job?

- Joy, peace
- Jack would see his work as a meaningful part of advancing God's Kingdom and increasing human flourishing.



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Question 7: What action steps might Jack take before leaving his accounting career and beginning seminary studies?

- Seek God and wise counsel
- Invite the Holy Spirit into his daily activity.
- Ask God for His eyes to see work

(What Jack enjoyed about campus ministry was seeing people come to faith in Christ. If Jack is experiencing a vacuum in his life, it could be because he is not sharing his faith. Incorporating his faith into the workplace in natural ways will increase his satisfaction)

- Have faith conversations at work
- Host a small group 1x week at lunch hour.

(Many people in the marketplace do not understand that local church pastors spend the majority of their time around Christians and have minimal opportunity to share their faith. Pastors have to be intentional about making connections with unbelievers. It might be helpful for your group to understand that important point. People who work in the marketplace – Market Place Ministers – are surrounded by unbelievers giving them many opportunities a week to be naturally supernatural by offering to help a colleague, pray for sick family members, share Jesus, have a lunch hour Bible Study or prayer group, etc.)

Question 8: Where do you struggle to see your job as God's work?

(Take notes then pray for these issues at the end)

Question 9: How does a biblical understanding of work influence your attitude about your job?

- It is the Lord Christ you are serving
- Work is a high and holy calling

Close in prayer

Lord, thank you for the calling you have on our lives as Marketplace Ministers. Help us see our work as a high and holy calling from You. Give us your eyes to see our work and our co-workers. Father, give us divine favor our jobs. Loose Your creativity on us so we can bring innovative solutions that bless our companies. Give us divine appointments with our co-workers this week. Help us to rest in You and to only receive our identities from You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

(Tip - It is also nice to do open prayers at the end. Tell the group you will open in prayer and select someone to be the person that closes the prayer. Explain that others can pray in between the opening and closing prayer as they feel prompted or comfortable.)



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During the Week

Pray for the people in your class.

Throughout the week, pray for the participants in your class. Ask the Lord to reveal Himself to them in new ways and to give them Divine Appointments with co-workers. Ask the Lord to give them boldness, courage, and strength to step into those moments and for the Holy Spirit to give them the exact words they need.

Before the next meeting, e-mail all the participants. Here is some suggested text:

Good evening!

I am looking forward to our second session of Monday Calling on **(insert day and time)**. This week we will listen to a teaching on work as God's design then spend some time discussing the concept.

Be on the lookout for Divine appointments this week. I look forward to hearing your stories.

It is a privilege to be on this journey with you,

(Your Name)