

## **WORK WITH PURPOSE INITIATIVE | PASTORS GATHERING**

### **Whole-Life Discipleship Teaching Tools**

*Pastors lead others in developing whole-life discipleship that integrates faith, work, and economics for flourishing. It's easier with good teaching tools. This discussion revealed how local pastors use recently developed teaching tools to help them lead.*

### **Whole-Life Discipleship Resources**

#### **Theology of Work Project**

This project has published a complete commentary on work in all books of the Bible, among other resources. All of their published work is available for free on the web at [www.theologyofwork.org](http://www.theologyofwork.org). A key resource.

#### **ReFrame Video Series**

<http://www.reframecourse.com/>

A 10-week film series. ReFrame blends world-class teaching with real-life examples of how to live out the gospel in every aspect of daily life. The course includes case studies of Christians in various professions wrestling with how to apply their faith to their professional and personal lives.

#### **Life On the Frontline Video Series**

<http://www.licc.org.uk/imagine-church/resources/life-on-the-frontline/>

This creative and practical small group resource is a six-session DVD series for small groups seeking to help one another live fruitfully and faithfully for Christ in the daily places of life and work. Each session has a short film, discussion material, Bible reflections and stories illustrating how the principles have been worked out in real life. The sessions are:

Session 1: The Frontline Call – What is my Frontline and why does it matter?

Session 2: The Frontline Commission – What happens when life on our Frontline feels difficult?

Session 3: The Frontline Community – How do all our various church activities equip us for our lives when we are apart?

Session 4: The Frontline Concern – How do you know what to do on your Frontline?

Session 5: The Frontline Cry – How does our Frontline shape our prayers?

Session 6: The Frontline Commitment – How can we sustain our commitment to one another on the Frontline?

### **RightNow Media**

<https://www.rightnow.org/Library/12>

A wealth of resources for multiple types of discipling initiatives.

### **For the Life of the World: Letters to the Exiles**

<http://www.letterstotheexiles.com/>

*For the Life of the World* is an entertaining film series that explores the deeper meaning of Salvation. Have you ever wondered, "What is my Salvation actually FOR?" Is it only about personal atonement, about getting to heaven, or something that comes later? Is it just to have a "friend in Jesus?"

## **Bethel Seminary's Work with Purpose Initiative**

### **General Resources**

<https://www.bethel.edu/seminary/about/initiatives/work-with-purpose/>

### **Church-based Courses (Available on Request)**

#### **Faith and Work Course**

Session 1: Faith and Work: A Preliminary Exercise

Session 2: Faith and Work: Some Old and New Testament Considerations

Session 3: Baptized into Christ; Daniel and the Modern Workplace; The Gospel of John, Jesus' Kingdom, and Work; Jesus at Work

Session 4: Early Christians and their Occupations; A Rhythm of Work and Rest

Session 5: Faithful Work in the World; We are All Stewards; Gaining, Saving, and Giving All We Can

Session 6: Work, Faith and Technology

#### **Vocational Stewardship Course (Adults)**

Session 1: Work's a Curse .... Right? How our work fits into the story of the Bible

Session 2: Do I Look for God in a Burning Bush? Or In My Neighbor?

Session 3: Listening for the Call in a World Full of Noise

Session 4: Eeeek, God Wants Me To Do What?

Session 5: A Long Obedience in the Same Direction

Session 6: Where Do I Go From Here? "Vocational stewardship" vs. "career": A better way to think of your life's work

#### **Vocational Stewardship Course (Young Adults)**

Session 1: Choices, Decisions, Career ... Oh My!

Session 2: Work - A Curse or a Blessing?

Session 3: God's Calling

Session 4: Jesus Calling

Session 5: Resources

Session 6: Spiritual Gifts

Session 7: Discernment

Session 8: Kingdom Come

Session 9: Lord, Do What You Want Through Me

### **The Economics of Human Flourishing Course**

Lesson 1: The Great Story of the Bible and Everyday Economics

Lesson 2: Exchange – Relating to Each Other, Economically

Lesson 3: Work – How We Labor, Together

Lesson 4: Consumption – Worship through Choices

Lesson 5: Property – What does the Bible have to say about what I own?

Lesson 6: Concepts of Growth – When wealth happens, who wins?

Lesson 7: Flourishing Society – Three Pillars of Support

### **What are some hurdles to developing disciples?**

#### 1. Problem: time

- Perception of lack of time
- Busyness and schedules
- Social media, time spent on Facebook, etc.
- Easily accessible distractions and idols
- Priorities (issue of the heart)
- Intentional living – how are we using our time?

#### Possible solutions:

- Tap into social media by setting up a discipleship group on Facebook
- Use technology as a tool to promote and make discipleship accessible
- Use technology in careful, thoughtful and unique ways that look different from the majority culture
- Gather online affinity groups of occupations such as nurses, physicians or engineers
- Use conference calling technology to educate and start a monthly group
- Help people prioritize their time and strategize well
- Serve as a time coach

#### 2. Problem: resources

- How can we determine which resources are good for nonbelievers or seekers?
- Do we spend too much time focusing on the “workplace as a mission field” without considering the individuals?

Possible solutions:

- Present information in a way that doesn't require a lot of bible knowledge
- Meet people on their level of understanding
- Explain that we are all made in God's image – this transcends faith

3. Problem: guiding the flock

- We don't understand the context of those we minister to
- Difficult to speak truth into someone's life when you don't understand

Possible solutions:

- Learn about the personal and working lives of those you shepherd
- Be a spiritual life coach

4. Problem: suspicion of work/life focus

- People think this is moving away from the gospel message
- Suspicious about the content

Possible solutions:

- Help others see why this matters
- Develop a theology of work and faith
- Explain how it is integral to the gospel, not additive

5. Problem: too much emphasis on theology

- Focus on head knowledge and learning rather than action
- This creates little movement toward wholeness

Possible solutions:

- Make sure people know how to connect what they learn with what they do
- Emphasize application

6. Problem: narrow vision of holiness

- Too much focus on spiritual aspects
- Perpetuates the sacred/secular divide

Possible solutions:

- Move beyond spiritual things to include all of life
- Redefine what it means to be holy
- Set the bar higher – not enough to just attend services or classes, but God needs to be incorporated into every part of life
- Understand that our goals of holiness are too small
- Help people know that God is only asking for ordinary, not extraordinary, efforts

**Four key resources for further reading**

- Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work – Timothy Keller
- Kingdom Calling: Vocational Stewardship for the Common Good – Amy L. Sherman
- Work Matters: Connecting Sunday Worship to Monday Work – Tom Nelson
- Visions of Vocation – Common Grace for the Common Good – Steven Garber