

Workplace as Global Mission

SESSION GOALS

The point of every session is a main idea with the goal of informing our knowing, feeling, and doing.

MAIN IDEA: Work is both sacred and missional.

Head Change: To know that our work isn't just about making a living but has eternal purpose as we use it to serve God and other people.

Heart Change: To feel grateful that God isn't only redeeming human souls; He is redeeming all things, including our work.

Life Change: To do our work with excellence, always alert to opportunities to share our faith in Jesus.

OPEN

How many different industries are represented in this group? Has anyone changed careers at some point? Is anyone working more than one job?

In this session, Anand Mahadevan explains the wondrous truth that our so-called "secular" work in this world is both sacred and missional. But work can be a sensitive subject. If anyone is currently between jobs or unemployed, let's take time to pray for them before diving into Anand's teaching.

VIEW

As you watch, write down how Anand answers these questions.

Why were cities such an important part of Paul's missionary endeavors?

How is it possible for work to be sacred in a fallen world?

Why are our workplaces generally bigger mission fields than our neighborhoods?

Show SESSION #6: *Workplace as Global Mission*
(17 minutes)

REVIEW

Anand draws our attention to the fact that Paul's missionary journeys and church planting centered around cities. **Why was this the case? Why did Paul have a particularly robust understanding of vocation and the economic structures regulating people's lives and movements? Which industry drives the economy of our town or city? Did anyone come to this area specifically to find work?**

Because Paul had a vocation of his own (tentmaking), he has much to teach us about work and mission in our twenty-first century cities. Firstly, Paul helped the early church to celebrate the *sacred* calling of work. **Do you tend to view your work as secular or spiritual? Do you see your work as part of your calling or ministry, or as a means to the end of making a living? Describe a time when your faith and your work intersected in such a way that you were able to bring an eternal perspective to bear on a run-of-the-mill situation at work.**

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The preacher in Ecclesiastes writes, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might..." (Ecclesiastes 9:10) **What kind of work are your hands busy with in this season? What would it look like for you to do that work with all your might?**

Proverbs 16:3 reads, "Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established." **How would you explain to a curious colleague at the office that you have committed your whole career, and the work you're busy with this week, to the Lord?**

Proverbs 18:9 warns, "Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys." **Would you agree that Christians should be the world's hardest workers? Why, or why not?**

Read what Paul has to say about work in 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Colossians 3:23–24. **What is God saying to you about your boss, or your commute, or the project you're currently working on, or the coworker who gets on your nerves, or your recent promotion (or lack thereof)?**

