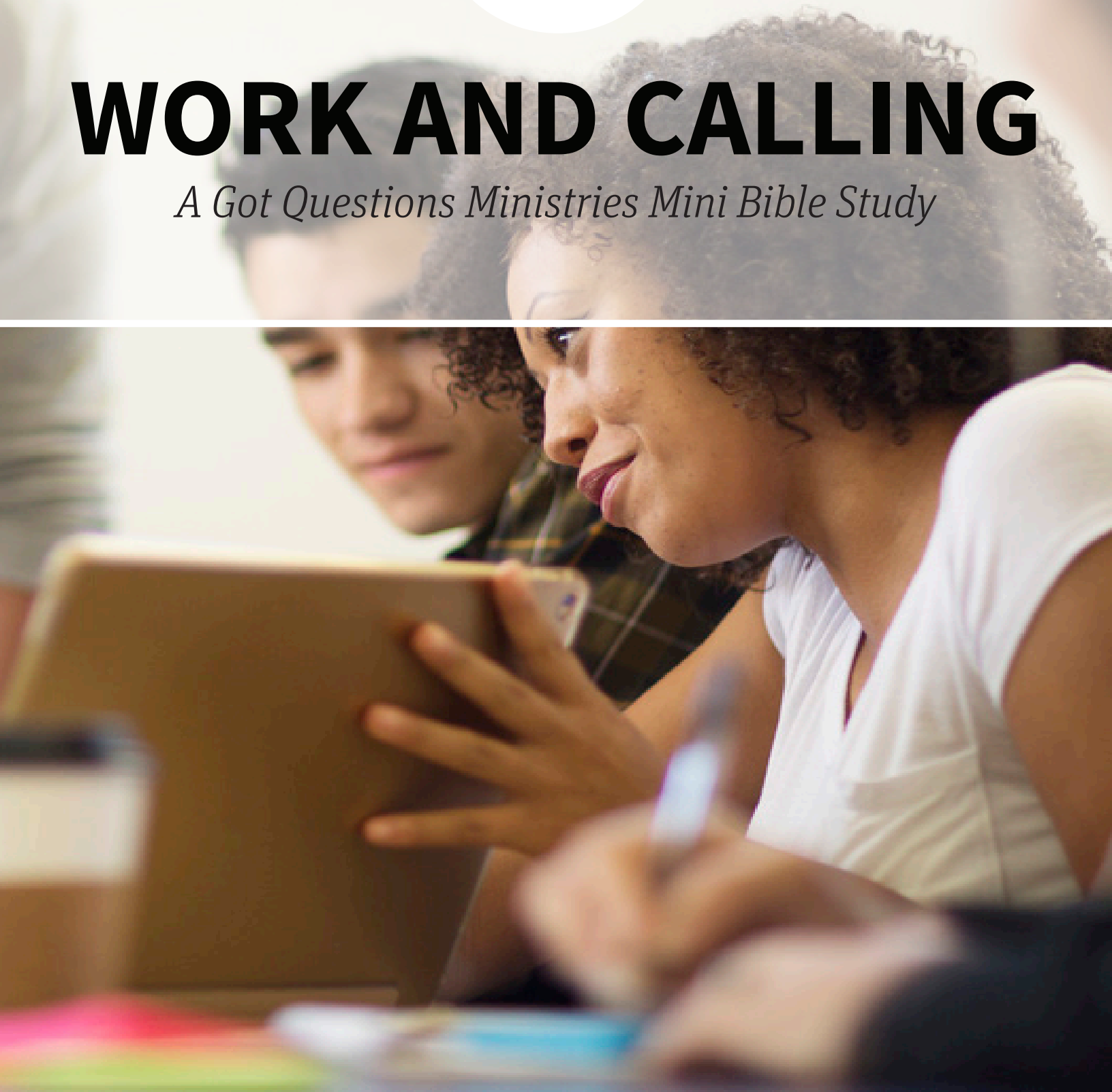
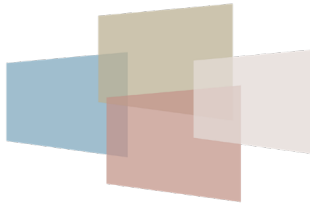




# WORK AND CALLING

*A Got Questions Ministries Mini Bible Study*





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# ***How to Use This Mini Bible Study***

*Welcome to the Got Questions Ministries Bible Study! We're so glad you're here!*

In these studies you will find content questions to grow your understanding, Bible search questions to dig deeper, and heartfelt questions to spark reflection and discussion. Whether you are a new or seasoned believer, using these Bible studies for personal study or as a small group/Sunday School resource, we hope you will increase in your understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ and that you will seek Him more passionately.

*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*  
– Jeremiah 29:13

These Bible studies are tools to help you grow in your knowledge of the topics at hand. However, knowing about God is not the same as actually knowing Him. God invites each of us to know Him personally and to

Throughout this study, there will be information to read and questions to answer. Next to the questions will be icons. Here is your key to understanding them:



Content Qs



Engage Qs



Bible Look Up Qs



Reflection Qs

have eternal life through Him.

If we place our faith in Him, trusting in His death on the cross to pay for our sins, we will be forgiven and receive the promise of eternal life in heaven.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life..*  
– John 3:16

If you have not yet trusted in Him for salvation or are unsure if you are saved, please visit: [www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html).

May God richly bless you as you seek to study His Word and grow in your walk with Him (Joshua 1:8)!





# Lesson 1:

## WORK & CALLING DAY ONE

*The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”*

*Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.*

*The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”*

*Genesis 2:15-20*



**What do these verses reveal about work and God’s purpose in creating humanity as beings who work even before the Fall?**



***How would you define work? What do you specifically consider as work?***



***What are the purposes for work? Why do we work?***



***What is your response to work? What attitudes and assumptions do you have toward work and working?***

**From [www.bibleref.com/Genesis/2/Genesis-2-15.html](http://www.bibleref.com/Genesis/2/Genesis-2-15.html)**

**Even before sin entered the world, human beings were meant to work, to help to accomplish God's purpose. That is built into us. Chapter 3 will reveal that sin changed the nature of our work and our response to it, but work itself is not a curse. It is part of our purpose as God's creatures.**



***Look up Matthew 5:16, John 6:27, 1 Corinthians 10:31, and Colossians 3:23-24. What do they reveal about the purpose of our work?***



***What in your life do you specifically consider work? Honestly reflecting, what heart attitudes do you have toward your specific areas of work?***



***Reflect on the areas of your life that you consider work. How does the specific type of work you do reflect God's character and purposes to the world (for example, if you do creative work you reveal that God is creative. If you work serving others, you reveal God's heart in serving rather being served.)?***

***Ask God to reveal any heart attitudes that negatively impact your ability to live out His purposes as you work.***



# Lesson 2:

## WORK & CALLING DAY TWO

*He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

2 Timothy 1:9-10

*Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.*

*And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.*

Ephesians 6:5-9

*With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12



**What do these verses reveal about calling? How does calling connect with our work and actions?**





***What do the following verses add about understanding our calling?***

***Ephesians 1:15-19:***

***Ephesians 4:1-4:***

***Hebrews 3:1***

***2 Peter 1:10:***



***Our salvation and living that out is ultimately our calling. It gives purpose to and reason behind our work. How does your work reflect your calling to be saved and live out your salvation?***



*How does your faith practically impact your work?*

From [www.compellingtruth.org/Christian-work-ethic.html](http://www.compellingtruth.org/Christian-work-ethic.html)

The Hebrew word for “work” in Genesis 2:15 is the same word for “worship” in Exodus 3:12 (and elsewhere throughout the Old Testament) when God promised Moses, “you shall worship God at this mountain” (NASB) (see Strong’s H5647 definition at <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h5647/esv/wlc/0-1/>; retrieved February 2, 2023). So work, like the human working in the garden exactly as God intended, can actually be a form of worship when we work according to God’s will. Recognizing that work is part of God’s good design for mankind and one of the ways in which we reflect God’s image in creation, thereby bringing Him glory and honor, can transform our mindset. When we understand that God Himself works, that He has given mankind work to do, and that it glorifies Him when we do so, work becomes a way to worship and a great blessing in the lives of those who love Him.



***Work finds its purpose in the One who made us to work. Without faith in Him, our work is a means to our own end, pleasing ourselves, gaining power or prestige or money, but without ultimate or long-lasting purpose. Have you responded to your ultimate calling to trust Christ and His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins? If not, we encourage you to read and respond to the call: [www.gotquestions.org/faith-in-Jesus.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/faith-in-Jesus.html).***

***If you have trusted in Christ for salvation, reflect on your work and these verses. What encouragement do you receive from them seeing that God gives you grace and empowers you to work purposefully and fruitfully?***



## Lesson 3:

### WORK & CALLING DAY THREE

*A wife of noble character who can find?  
She is worth far more than rubies.  
Her husband has full confidence in her  
and lacks nothing of value.  
She brings him good, not harm,  
all the days of her life.  
She selects wool and flax  
and works with eager hands.  
She is like the merchant ships,  
bringing her food from afar.  
She gets up while it is still night;  
she provides food for her family  
and portions for her female servants.  
She considers a field and buys it;  
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.  
She sets about her work vigorously;  
her arms are strong for her tasks.  
She sees that her trading is profitable,  
and her lamp does not go out at night.  
In her hand she holds the distaff  
and grasps the spindle with her fingers.  
She opens her arms to the poor  
and extends her hands to the needy.  
When it snows, she has no fear for her household;*

*for all of them are clothed in scarlet.  
She makes coverings for her bed;  
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.  
Her husband is respected at the city gate,  
where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.  
She makes linen garments and sells them,  
and supplies the merchants with sashes.  
She is clothed with strength and dignity;  
she can laugh at the days to come.  
She speaks with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.  
She watches over the affairs of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:  
“Many women do noble things,  
but you surpass them all.”  
Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.  
Honor her for all that her hands have done,  
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.*

*Proverbs 31:10-31*



***From this passage, what specific words or phrases are used for the way this woman works and the quality of her work?***



***Looking back at the past few weeks, what words would you use to describe the specific work you have done?***



***What does quality work reveal about the person doing the work?***



***How does the quality of our work impact those around us?***



***Which of verses from Proverbs 31 encourage or challenge you regarding the quality of work you produce?***



***God cares about how we work. The way we work and the quality we seek to produce reveals our character and our heart attitudes. It also reveals the God who made us to a world that so desperately needs Him.***

***How does reflecting on the impact of how you engage with work, including the quality you seek to give, encourage you to work with even more excellence, as unto the Lord? What would it look like for you to work excellently?***

***Remember, we do not work excellently in our own strength. Hebrews 13:20-21 tells us:***

***Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.***



# *Lesson 4:*

## **WORK & CALLING DAY FOUR**

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

*Colossians 3:23-24*

*For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.*

*John 6:38*



***Read the verses above. What do they reveal that apply to work and calling?***



**“Whatever” includes any and all contexts. Christians are to work “heartily,” from the Greek phrase *ek psyches*, meaning “from the soul.” This implies the ideas of enthusiasm and passion. Demonstrating a good work attitude makes a tremendous difference in one’s personal life and in our influence on others.**



***We ultimately serve the Lord through our work. How does knowing this impact your attitude toward work as well as the way in which you work?***



***What does John 6:38 reveal about Jesus’ heart and attitude in His work while He was on the earth? How can we apply that to our attitudes in our work?***



***How in your life do you distinguish between having a good attitude toward work versus not? What have been the results of both?***



***Our heart and attitudes can be seen in the way we approach our work, the way we feel about our work, and the way in which we do our work. Spend some time reflecting on your heart and attitude toward work, both your general view toward work and your heart and attitudes toward the specific tasks you are currently working on.***

***Write a specific word to express your heart and attitude toward each of your current tasks. Where do you need to surrender your heart and attitudes to the One whom you are ultimately serving by your work?***



## Lesson 5:

# WORK & CALLING DAY FIVE

*For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.” We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people*

*we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat.*

*2 Thessalonians 3:10-12*



***Read the verses above. Compare and contrast the actions and results of a person who works and a person who does not work.***



***What do these verses reveal about the results of a person who is unwilling to work?***



***Why does not working often lead to negative and sinful results?***



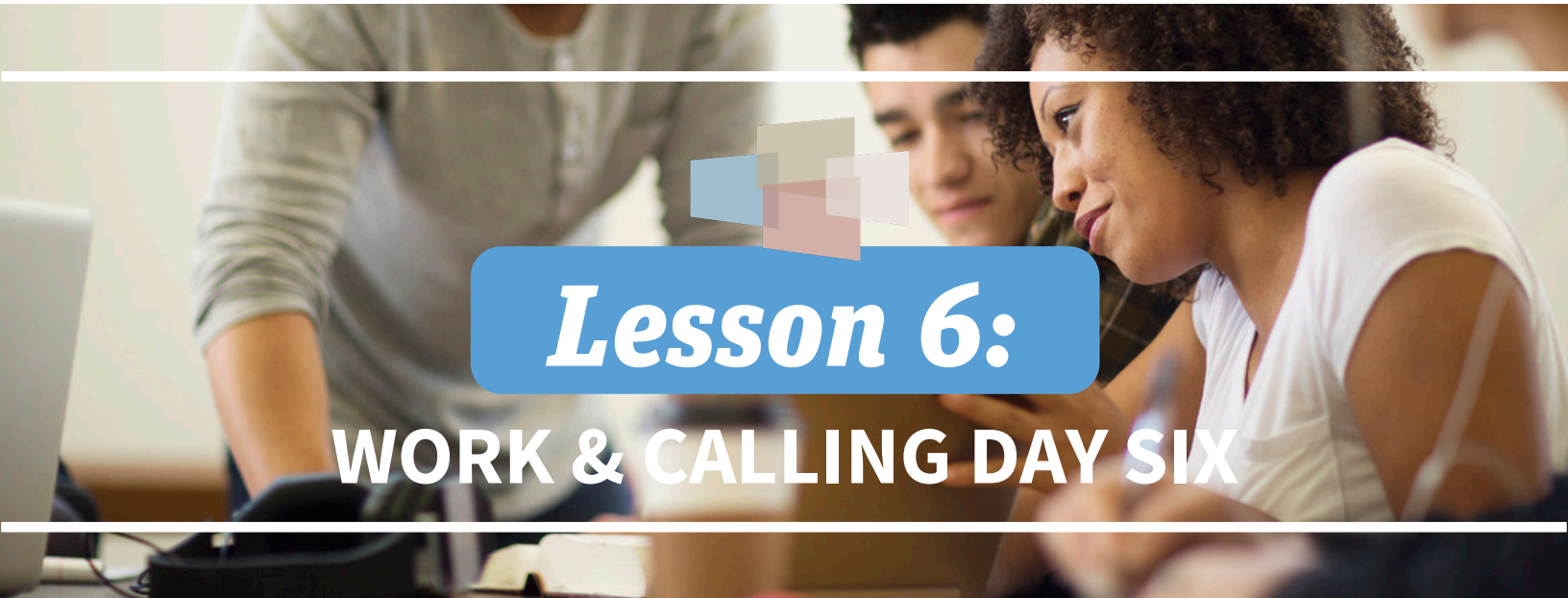
***When have you found yourself in trouble because you chose not to do the work you needed to do? What were the results?***



***Proverbs 13:4 reads: A sluggard's appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.***

***What desires do you have? How is God calling you to work toward them? What are some implications of you working or not working toward them?***

***Write a statement about your purpose for working so when laziness creeps in, you have motivation to pursue what God has for you with an attitude and actions that are honoring to Him!***



## ***Lesson 6:***

# **WORK & CALLING DAY SIX**

*What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.*

*A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?*

*Ecclesiastes 2:22-25*



***Read the verses above. What do they reveal about the relationship between our work and God?***

*Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.*

*Proverbs 16:3*



***The word translated as “meaningless” comes from a word that means “vapor or smoke.” How does this nuanced definition impact your understanding of the word “meaningless”?***



***What relationship does God have to our work? How does understanding God’s role give proper perspective to our work?***

*From [www.bibleref.com/Proverbs/16/Proverbs-16-3.html](http://www.bibleref.com/Proverbs/16/Proverbs-16-3.html)*

*The best chance for success comes when plans are aligned with truth. That means those who submit to God's will and seek Him are in a better position than those who ignore or reject Him. Following God is never a guarantee of earthly success (John 16:33). However, acting in accordance with truth and goodness removes many dangers from life (Proverbs 1:7; 13:20–22). When someone's efforts are fully entrusted to God's will and His control—when they are “committed” to Him—those labors are less likely to cause their own downfall.*



*What do you labor for? How do these goals or purposes align with God's Word?  
How do you know they align with God's plans?*

*From [www.412teens.org/qna/how-can-I-know-Gods-will-for-my-life.php](http://www.412teens.org/qna/how-can-I-know-Gods-will-for-my-life.php)*

*Keep in mind that God rarely gives us a specific list of GPS directions, customized to our own lives that says, “Okay, wake up, eat Cheerios for breakfast using the blue bowl, take the short-cut to school, go to homeroom first, then take the stairs to Spanish class, then...” No, God gave you a brain for a reason! Tap into your God-given common sense during the decision making process as well. We have free will and intelligence, and God would like us to use those just as much as He wants us to seek His specific will.*

*Romans 12:2 gives some great advice about making choices that would align with God's will: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” God wants to see you grow as a Christian and make decisions according to your desire to please Him—not yourself. Walk closely with Him and regularly pray and read the Bible; you'll find yourself becoming very familiar with recognizing God's will.*





***Spend some time dedicating everything you do to the Lord. Name the things you do as work specifically, and commit these roles, jobs, projects, tasks, etc. to Him. Ask Him to reveal any that are not in line with His Word or will. Ask the Lord to establish you in them and to equip you by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue working on them as unto the Lord!***



# Lesson 7:

## WORK & CALLING DAY SEVEN

*Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.*

*Philippians 2:14-16*

*May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.*

*Psalm 90:17*



**Read the passages above. What do they reveal about work and calling?**



***According to the Philippians passage, what is the purpose of how we work in this world?***



***In what specific ways can our work be a testament and reflection of God to those who are apart from Him?***



***How are you personally affected by knowing that your attitudes and actions in your work can impact an unbeliever?***



***When you face discouragement in your work, how do you personally remind yourself that you do not run or labor in vain?***



***Reflecting on Psalm 90:17, how would asking God to establish the work of your hands change the way and purpose for the way you work?***



***Spend some time reflecting on Psalm 90:17. Recognize your need for the Lord in all your work. Remember that it is the Lord that you work for. Respond by personalizing this prayer and asking God's favor to be upon you and to establish the work of your hands.***



Now that you have studied seven lessons on work and calling, take some time to reflect on what you've learned and how you will put what you've learned into practice.



***How has your understanding of work and calling changed or expanded as a result of what you've learned through this study? What are 2-3 truths you learned about work and calling that are most meaningful to you?***



***What will you change in your life as a result of this study?***



***Who in your life would you like to see grow in their understanding of work and calling? Commit to praying for them. What will you share with them about what you have learned?***