



Working Faithfully

Discussion and short bible study.

This session is based around Colossians 3.12-24 and Chapter 3 of John Pritchard's Book '*Living Faithfully*' published by SPCK.

Encouraging the participants to read the whole book would be ideal, but they will need to have **read chapter 3 in advance** of this session, everyone will then have the opportunity to consider what is being said in the text and each has time to apply the thinking to their own experience.

AIMS AND OUTCOMES

- That participants will read chapter 3 of the book *Living Faithfully* and work through the questions within small groups.
- To consider how their 'work' might become an offering to God.
- To explore how they might, as a church, honour the world of work more effectively.

RESOURCES

- Copies of the Book '*Living Faithfully*' by John Pritchard, ideally 1 per person.
- Bibles
- Flip chart and pens
- Appendix 1 for each participant
- Pianist or CD for Worship.

Session

The questions that follow are to be found in the book on the last page of the chapter, but for ease they are copied here.

Anchor passage: Colossians 3.12-24

- Read the verses from Colossians once, take a full two minutes for reflection, then read it again.

Opener:

- Where are the crunch points for you in relating your Sunday and Monday lives?

Give participants time to think or maybe discuss in 2's or 3's and then feedback. List these thoughts on a flip chart.



In the Reading from Colossians;

- Vv. 12-16 focus on building up the inner life of faith. Do you find that inner life gets eroded through the week?
- What spiritual resources would help you integrate your faith with the rest of your life?
- How realistic is v. 17?
- Vv. 23-24, encourage wholeheartedness in our work 'as done for the Lord'. Are there jobs that cannot be done for the Lord? What would it mean for your work (paid, voluntary, domestic)?
- How could your church honour the world of work more effectively?
- Use George Herbert's hymn 'Teach me, my God and king' (see appendix 1) as the basis of a verse-by-verse discussion to consider how those sentiments would and could work in practice.

WORSHIP

- Sing or listen to the hymn and spend some time in quiet reflecting on the words.
- Pray together:
Share some of the deeper issues you're facing in your non-church life and work. Invite members of the group to jot down those issues so that they can pray for each other both now and in the coming weeks.
- You may like to use the following prayer by David Adams to finish your session:

Lord,
Whatever we build,
Give us a glimpse of glory.
Whatever we make,
Give us a sense of wonder.
Wherever we travel,



Give us a sense of reverence.
Whoever we meet,
Give us a sense of awe.
Whatever we do,
Give us a sense of achievement.
Whatever our situation,
Give us knowledge of you.

Help us to see that everything is in your care
And that you allow us to share in your glory.



APPENDIX 1

Teach me, my God and King,
in all things thee to see,
and what I do in anything
to do it as for thee.

A man that looks on glass,
on it may stay his eye;
or if he pleaseth, through it pass,
and then the heaven espy.

All may of thee partake;
nothing can be so mean,
which with this tincture, "for thy sake,"
will not grow bright and clean.

A servant with this clause
makes drudgery divine:
who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
makes that and the action fine.

This is the famous stone
that turneth all to gold;
for that which God doth touch and own
cannot for less be told.

George Herbert 1633