

TERM 3 2019



EVANGELISTIC  
**PRAYER**  
TEAM  
**BOOKLET**



**CITY BIBLE  
FORUM+**

Ask the bigger questions

# TERM 3

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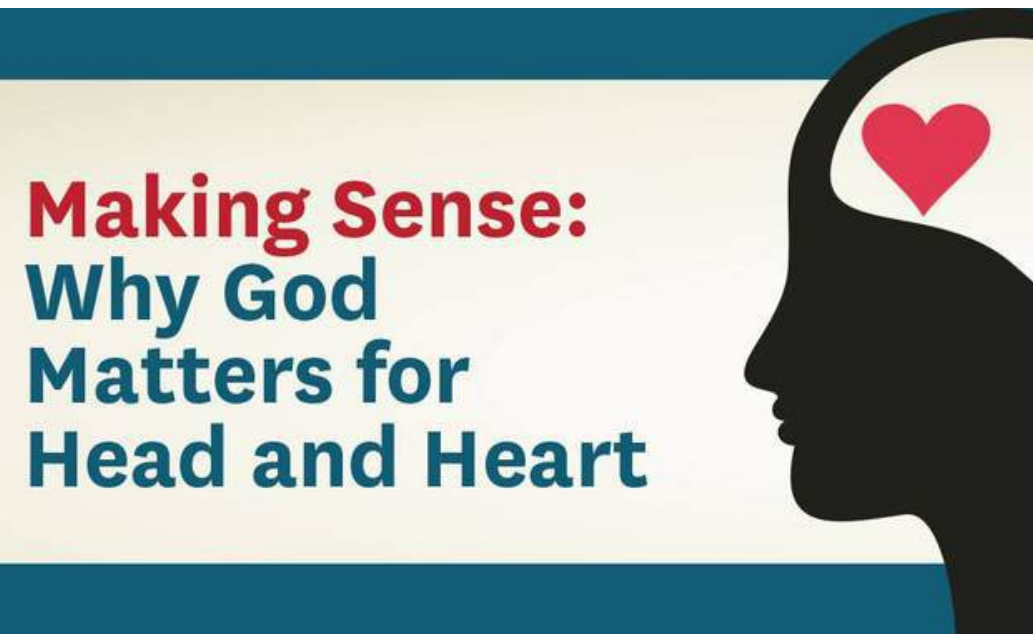


**UNDERSTANDING THE WORK/LIFE BALANCE**



**LIVING IN A HOSTILE CITY**

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# PRAYER IN THE FACE OF PRESSURE



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## **PRAYER IN THE FACE OF PRESSURE**

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Pressure - we all face hard times at work. Christians may well find themselves under increasing pressure to keep quiet about Jesus. How should we respond? The apostles found themselves forbidden from talking about Jesus and responded with prayer and a renewed zeal for speaking about Jesus. We can learn a lot from this episode in Acts 4.

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### HOW TO USE THESE STUDIES



These studies are short modules to help workers think more deeply about different areas of your workplace witness. They are designed to be used in Evangelistic Prayer Teams (EPTs), but can also be used in any small group setting.

## PRAYER IN THE FACE OF PRESSURE

Imagine HR has announced a new policy – religious talk of any kind is no longer allowed in your workplace. How should we respond when facing pressure to be quiet about Jesus?

### BIG IDEA

In the face of pressure to be quiet about Jesus, it's time to pray that God would enable us to speak even more boldly.

### From the Bible

“Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. <sup>25</sup> You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>6</sup> The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.’

<sup>27</sup> Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. <sup>28</sup> They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. <sup>29</sup> Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. <sup>30</sup> Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” **Acts 4:24-30**

When facing pressure to be quiet about Jesus, how did the disciples respond?

## Key Truths

1. Peter and John are ordered by the Sanhedrin to stop speaking in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18). The response of the believers in Jerusalem is to obey God and not humans.
2. The same hatred that led the Gentiles and the people of Israel to kill Jesus, is the same hatred directed towards the believers that tries to force them to stop talking.
3. “They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.” Nothing takes God by surprise! God is in control, even when Jesus died. And God is in control when believers face persecution. So we can pray even then.
4. The believers’ response to people attempting to shut them up was – pray for boldness to speak of Jesus even more! (But remember Peter’s instruction in 1 Peter 3:15 that we should do so with gentleness and respect).

## Application

How do we respond to pressure to be silent about Jesus?

What is the difference between keeping quiet about Jesus in the workplace and being wise about when to speak about Jesus?

*Remember, Coffee – Dinner – Gospel as an approach to sharing Jesus in the workplace means seeking opportunities to share Jesus with work colleagues through relational engagement, often outside the workplace.*

## Prayer

Pray that in the face of increasing pressure to be silent about Jesus that we would speak all the more boldly about him.

Ask that God would work in his miraculous power to bring people to faith in Jesus.

What is the next step with your colleagues?

WHAT'S THE POINT OF THE 9 TO 5?



**BECAUSE OF  
JESUS...**



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## BECAUSE OF JESUS...



### WHAT'S INSIDE

Jesus changes how we work. These studies explore a chapter in William Taylor's very helpful book, *Revolutionary Work*. We highly recommend reading *Revolutionary Work* to gain a biblical perspective of your work. It is brief, eminently readable, and extremely helpful book.

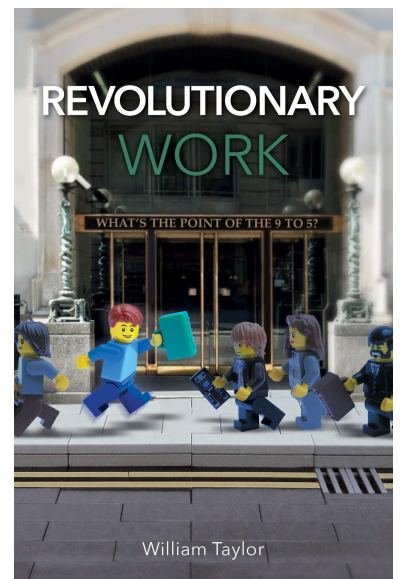
### STUDIES

We have a new boss

We have a new goal

We have a new reward

We have a greater work



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# BECAUSE OF JESUS

## - WE HAVE A NEW BOSS

# 1

**Who has been your best boss?  
What made them great?**

### BIG IDEA

Being a Christian means we have a new boss – king Jesus! We now work in service to him, and so work wholeheartedly for our earthly boss.

### From the Bible

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. <sup>6</sup> Obey them not only to win their favour when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. <sup>7</sup> Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, <sup>8</sup> because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

<sup>9</sup> 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 favouritism with him.

**Ephesians 6:5-9**

What does this passage have to say to workers?

## Key Truths

1. While an employee is not the same as a slave, we are nonetheless under authority as we work.
2. Christians have a new boss, king Jesus! As we work under our current boss, we must never forget that they rank under Jesus.
3. But, “You’re not the boss of me!” is not our new motto. Instead understanding our place as under authority as we seek to serve Jesus, means we sincerely serve our bosses as we would Christ.
4. Having Jesus as our boss increases our responsibility to work well. We should work with our hearts engaged.

## Application

Australian workplaces can often be cynical of people in authority – though occasionally people revere those in authority. Across our careers we will have good bosses, bad bosses, and maybe even meet some absolute tyrants – but each one of them will be a flawed person – just as we are. As a result often Australian workers can be motivated to work well by fear, or by desire for promotion – rather than from a desire to do good work.

If we are motivated by fear we will do as much as we can to avoid the sack, but we may slack off when the boss turns their back.

If we are motivated by advancement, we will work until we’ve “made it” and then seek to back off, or else we’ll be embittered as we get overlooked, or we discover what we have worked so hard for is really not any better.

What difference does it make to you knowing that you are working for Jesus and not just your boss?

## Prayer

Pray you would work this week with the service of Jesus in the front of your mind.

Pray as you serve Jesus, that you would have opportunities to take the next step relationally to help your colleagues come to know Jesus.

# BECAUSE OF JESUS - WE HAVE A NEW GOAL

# 2

**What do you think are your colleagues' goal for their work?**

## **BIG IDEA**

Being a Christian means we have a new goal – to do the will of God from our hearts!

## From the Bible

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. <sup>6</sup> Obey them not only to win their favour when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. <sup>7</sup> Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, <sup>8</sup> because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

<sup>9</sup> 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 favouritism with him.

**Ephesians 6:5-9**

(Optional) How should we live as workers?

## Key Truths

1. If Jesus is our new boss, then doing God's will is our new goal. What is God's will? That we would serve in our workplace wholeheartedly.
2. This drives us to be better workers as we work, not only for our earthly boss' favour, or out of fear, but we now work for Jesus – seeking to do God's will. (and that's a tall order!)
3. Doing the will of God has far ranging implications to how we work. We have a new motivation to work with integrity, accountability, and service to others.

## Application

Think through the difference working to do the will of God with all our hearts will make. It will no longer be enough to work through our to do lists, we are driven to accomplish our tasks while also showing kindness to our colleagues. It won't be enough to speak up and carry the day in a meeting if our language or our humour dishonours Christ. It will be a travesty to be well liked in the office, but also known to betray confidence or engage in gossip.

Unfortunately, we know we've all slipped up at some point. But the good news is when we slip up, it is the perfect opportunity to demonstrate kingdom virtues! How often have you witnessed someone owning their mistake and sincerely apologising? It's rare in our culture and can be a good way of demonstrating the humility we can have when Jesus is our boss and we have God's will as our goal.

Is there anything you need to humbly apologise for? How might you do that?

(Optional) *Sometimes we might be asked to do something by a boss that would upset our ultimate boss – Jesus. What should we do in those instances to honour our earthly master and our heavenly boss?*

## Prayer

Pray you would have the insight to discern how you can work to serve your colleagues and company wholeheartedly as if serving Jesus himself.

Pray that you would go deeper in your relationship and love for your colleagues so you can serve them wholeheartedly. What is the next step with your colleagues?

# BECAUSE OF JESUS

## - WE HAVE A NEW REWARD

# 3

**Why do you work? What do you aim to get out of work?**

### **BIG IDEA**

Being a Christian means we hope for a new reward – the pleasure of our God.

### From the Bible

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, <sup>8</sup> because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

<sup>9</sup> 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 favouritism with him.

**Ephesians 6:7-9**

You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. <sup>35</sup> So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

**Hebrews 10:34-35**

### Key Truths:

1. We serve the Lord, not people, because we look to the reward he will give to his people.
2. Hebrews is clear, our reward is better and more lasting than anything our jobs could give us – our reward is so great we can joyfully accept the confiscation of our property!
3. What is our reward? It is the coming kingdom of Jesus. What a wonderful day it will be to see the radiant face of King Jesus finally crowned over all!

## Application

“Well done, good and faithful servant” Imagine hearing those words in your ears as you stand before Jesus. The hope of the reward that will be ours when Jesus returns changes how we work. If our goal is the pleasure of God, we can work – irrespective of the conditions – with our eyes on the joy that will be ours when Christ returns. We can endure the worst job, the harshest boss, because we know Jesus is coming. And hope is attractive in our world.

How does our hope for a future reward change how we work when things are going well?

## Prayer

Pray for each other that our eyes will be on the reward we will receive when Jesus returns.

Pray for the next relational step for your colleagues to come to know Jesus.

# BECAUSE OF JESUS

## - WE HAVE A GREATER WORK

# 4

Alpha International Chairman, Ken Costa, has said "our prime task at work is not to be evangelists. That is not what we are employed to do."<sup>1</sup>

Compare to Neil Hudson, "...what if, for the Christian, ...the primary calling is not in regard to employment but to Christ? Our primary vocation is to be a disciple, an agent of the kingdom."<sup>2</sup>

**To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

### BIG IDEA

Being a Christian means that we have a greater work to do – to bring in the harvest that God is developing.

### From the Bible

Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no-one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"<sup>28</sup> Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,<sup>29</sup> "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"<sup>30</sup> They came out of the town and made their way towards him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." <sup>33</sup> Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" <sup>34</sup> "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

**John 4:27-34**

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

What is the work of the Lord?

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<sup>1</sup> Ken Costa, God at Work, p34

<sup>2</sup> Neil Hudson, Imagine Church



## Key Truths:

1. Compare the concerns of the disciples and of the woman. The disciples are worried about food. The woman is eager to tell everyone in her town about Jesus.
2. Jesus' concerns are focused on the work of his Father.
3. We, like the woman, should give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord.

## Application

Of course we aren't paid to evangelise, nor are we paid to love people, to care for them when they're hurting or sick, to befriend people at work, to advocate for better conditions or on behalf of a charity. But as Christians, how can we not?

William Taylor says that for the Christian "work should be governed by the gospel. We now have a new master at work, a new goal in work, and a new reward as we work for the Lord Jesus in our workplace. What matters now is not so much what we do but who we are and who we are serving. Furthermore, wherever God has placed us... we have seen there's a greater work going on. The work of the Lord Jesus is to bring in his harvest and, wherever we are, he has given us a privileged part in his great eternal work."<sup>3</sup>

To what extent should the mission of Jesus impact what we do in the workplace?

Evangelism can be costly. It costs time, energy, even money (and perhaps courage!) to develop relationships and seek to help people meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible. What do you think stops you from sharing Jesus more with your work colleagues?

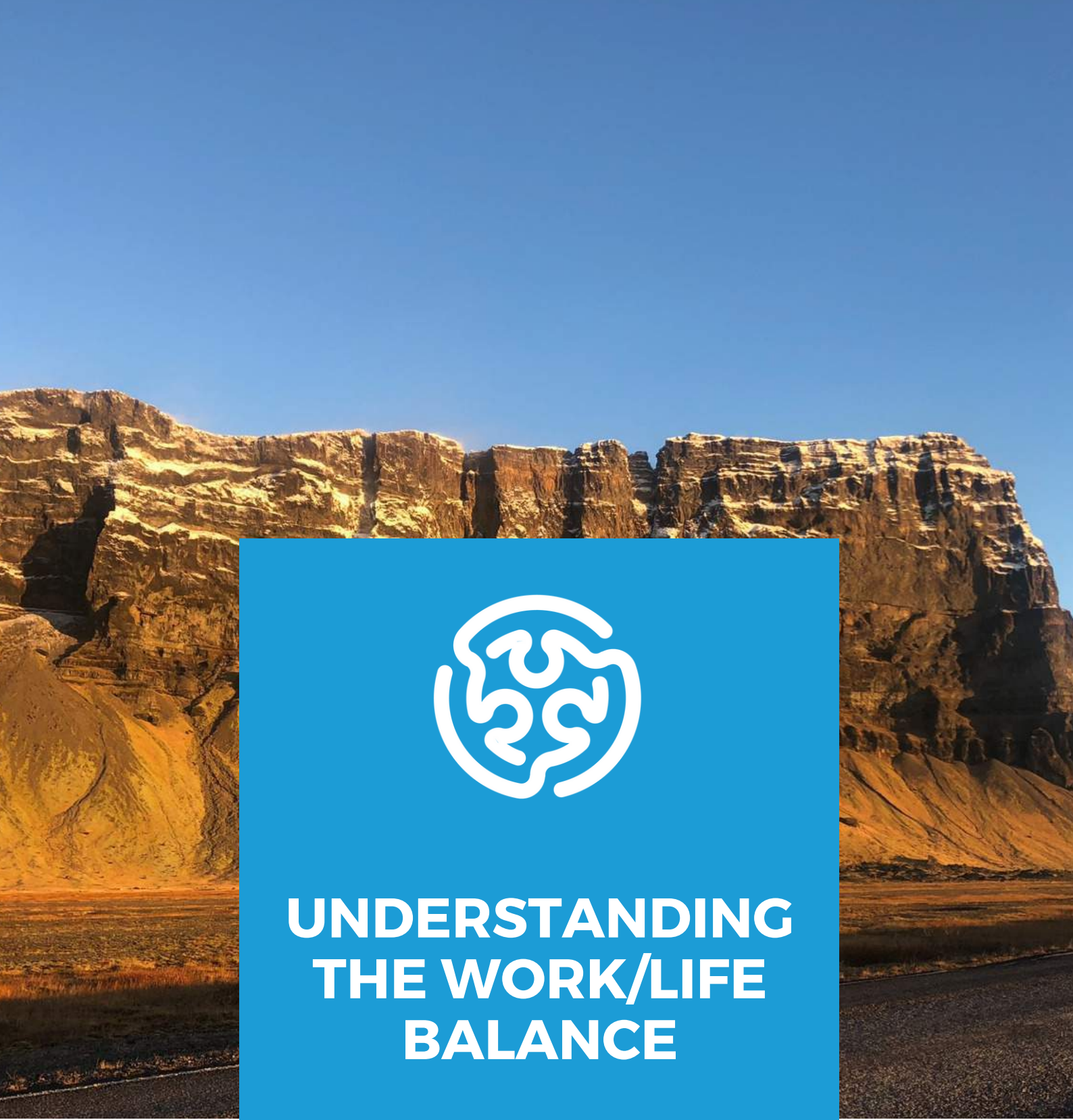
## Prayer

Pray you would give yourself fully to the work of the Lord.

Pray for opportunities this week with your colleagues to take the next step towards meeting Jesus.

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<sup>3</sup> Revolutionary Work, p80-81



# UNDERSTANDING THE WORK/LIFE BALANCE

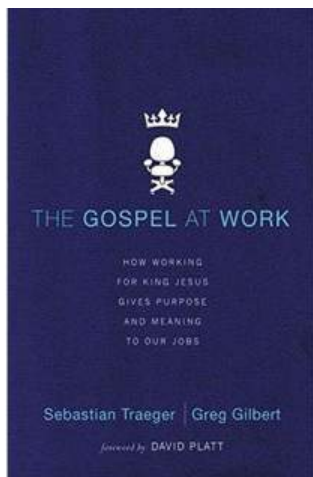




## UNDERSTANDING THE WORK/LIFE BALANCE

### WHAT'S INSIDE

The Christian life is never simple, and in contemporary society even more so. Our lives are now lived in several different contexts: work, home, school, sport, etc. How should we live as a Christian in each of those contexts? This study concentrates on the work place and draws upon a very helpful chapter in Sebastian Traeger & Greg Gilbert's book, *The Gospel at Work*. Please do read their book to gain some good insights into how the gospel changes how and why we work.



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# UNDERSTANDING THE WORK/LIFE BALANCE

**Is it possible to achieve a work/life balance?  
How do people in your workplace try to achieve it?**

## **BIG IDEA**

Do not be idle, instead pursue faithfulness to God, then seek fruitfulness, but beware of idolatry.<sup>1</sup>

## From the Bible

...we urge you brothers and sisters, to do so more and more,<sup>11</sup> and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: you should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you,<sup>12</sup> so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

**1 Thessalonians 4:10b-12**

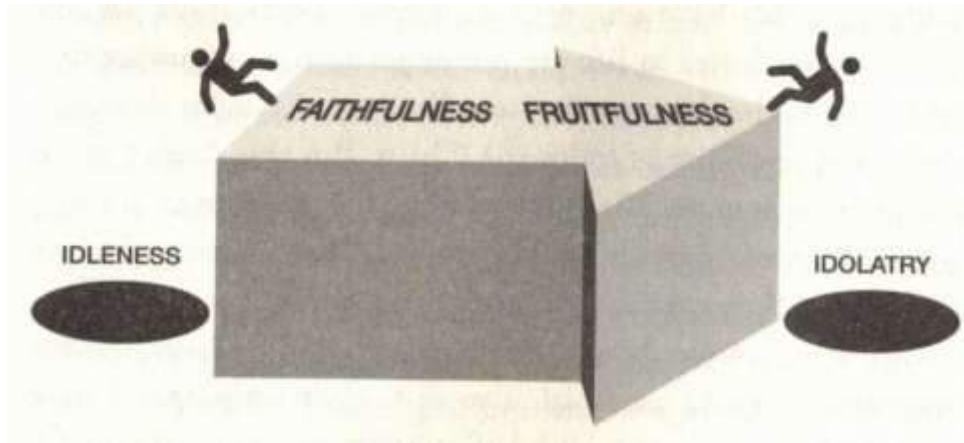
Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.

**Proverbs 23:4**

What does God require of us in the workplace?

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<sup>1</sup> This concept is from Sebastian Traeger and Greg Gilbert's book, *The Gospel at Work*



## Idleness Faithfulness Fruitfulness Idolatry

1. As we seek to live as Christians, there is a bare minimum required of us by God– this is faithfulness. If we fail to meet this bare minimum, we are idle.
2. When we start performing above and beyond being faithful, we can start to bear fruit. In the workplace this is the difference between doing what's required of you, and really performing.
3. When we start devoting ourselves to our workplace – beyond being fruitful – we are in danger of falling into idolatry.
4. Idolatry is where you are mastered by your work instead of serving the Lord and others.

## Key Truths

1. For the Christian in the workplace, living as a Christian means living faithfully, and perhaps pushing forward to being fruitful.
2. The minimum threshold for the Christian worker is to work so as to provide for yourself, to care for your family, and to share with others. Further, being faithful at work is doing your job.
3. With extra energy, time, and attention paid to your job you can start to see fruit. But when this extra starts encroaching on other areas of responsibility, you are in danger of idolatry.

## Application

Is sharing Jesus with our work colleagues a part of being faithful, or is it what happens when you push into fruitfulness?

There's no one size fits all when it comes to working out our work/life balance as a Christian. We have different capacities. It is essential to be faithful, great to be fruitful, but sinful to be idolatrous (or idle). The reality is we can't be fruitful in all

areas of life, we need to choose where we can be happy with being faithful, and where we can push into fruitfulness. In some stages of our lives, being faithful may be all we can achieve.

So here are some hints from Sebastian Traeger and Greg Gilbert's book, *The Gospel at Work*:

1. Determine what it means to be faithful in all your areas of responsibility
2. Evaluate yourself against what it means to be faithful
3. Repent of sin
4. Consider where you might be able to press forward into fruitfulness

How might living faithfully (if not fruitfully) in the workplace help you as you seek to share Jesus?

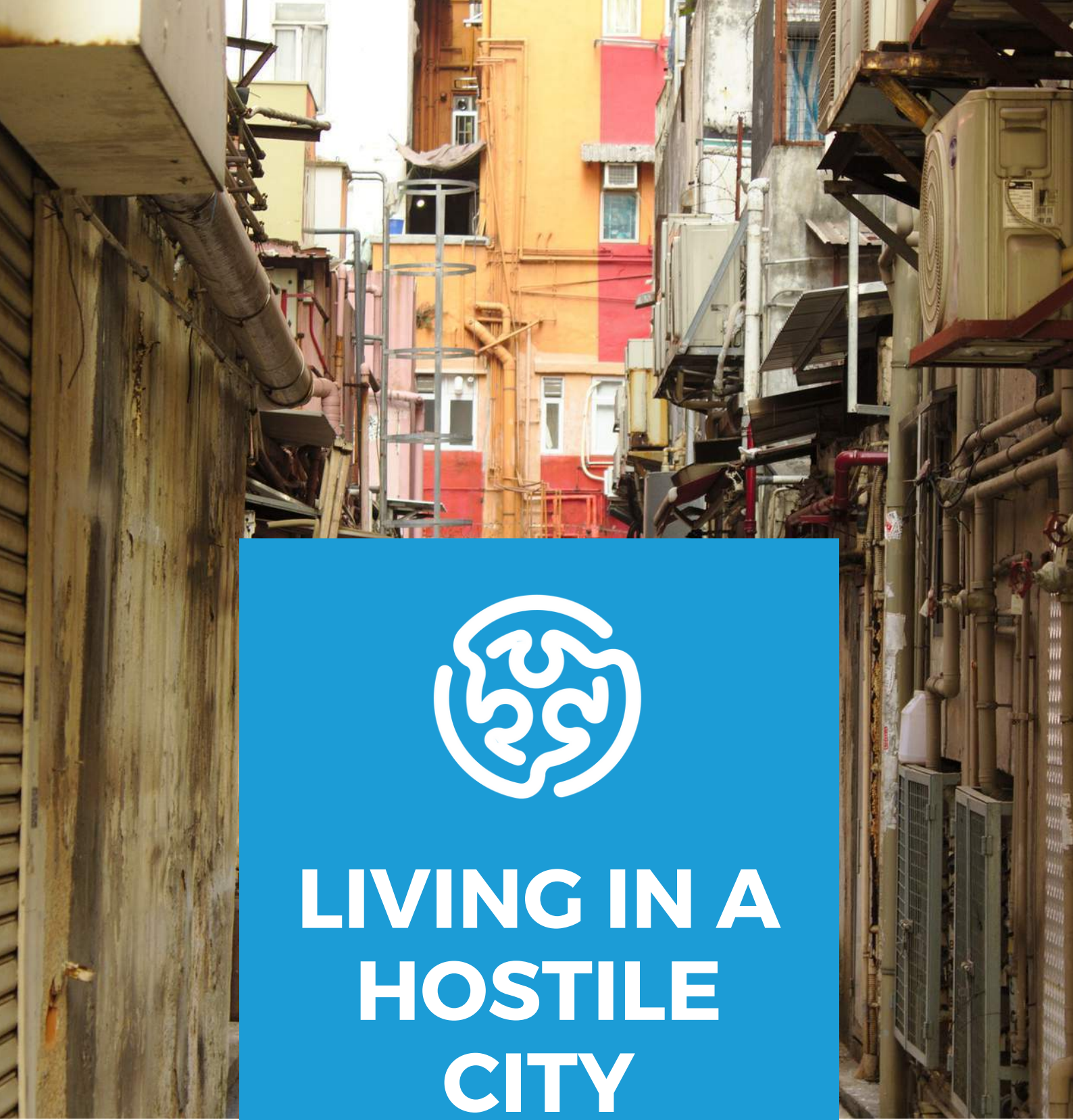
What might it look like to be fruitful in your workplace?

Could there be a situation where there is conflict between being faithful to God and faithful to your boss?

## Prayer

Pray you would be able to discern where you might be in danger of idleness, and where you might be in danger of idolatry in your life.

Pray that living faithfully at work would result in a good testimony before your colleagues.



# LIVING IN A HOSTILE CITY



# LIVING IN A HOSTILE CITY



## WHAT'S INSIDE

Ever felt that the city seems to getting a little harder and hostile? Daniel and his mates worked in the government for a hostile foreign nation. They faced years of hardships, with enemies trying to trip them up and ridicule God. We have much to learn about how they stood up under that pressure and gave glory to God as a result.

## STUDIES

Success

Future security

Politics and powerplays

Leadership and humility

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**When you think about your work, what (or who) do you feel will give you success?**

**BIG  
IDEA**

All things are given  
All success is given by God.

In Daniel chapter 1 the nation of Israel has been taken captive by the Babylonians and the young Israelites are being enrolled in the Babylonian graduate indoctrination program. And it looks like Nebuchadnezzar is the one who gives success, health and prosperity. But God gives success...

### From the Bible

And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into Nebuchadnezzar's hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. **Daniel 1:2**

Now God had caused the official to show favour and compassion to Daniel

**Daniel 1:9**

To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

**Daniel 1:17**

Who gives success?

## Key Truths

1. God is the giver. He gave Israel into the hands of Babylon according to his plan. That is why Nebuchnezzar is successful, because God gave Israel into his hands.
2. God is the giver. It is he who creates the circumstances in which we rise or fall. He makes the official look on Daniel and his mates with favour.
3. God is the giver. Daniel and his mates have their gifts, skills and learning only because God gave it to them.

## Application

Respond to this statement: If you think your company ultimately gives success then there are *no limits* to the lengths you'll go to keep your company happy with you.

If we grasp deeply that God is *the* giver how should this impact how we conduct ourselves at work when there is pressure to conform, in a bad way, to the company? Or when there is an opportunity to 'stand up' as a Christian?

*God is the giver and so our confidence in life rests in him not in our success in life. But if our confidence comes from our self-made success we no longer recognise that God is the true great giver of success.*

## Prayer

Pray for each other's hearts – that we would acknowledge God as the source of our success in life.

Pray that you would seek God's success in your work.

**What are the things you depend on for your future security?**

**What do you notice others depending on?**

**What influences how you feel about the future?**

**BIG  
IDEA**

All human kingdoms will end, all human powers will be overthrown. But God's kingdom will exist forever and no power can overthrow it.

Nebuchadnezzar has a dream that frightens him profoundly. It is the dream of four human kingdoms being destroyed by God's kingdom. Our reading today is God's interpretation of the dream given through Daniel.

### From the Bible

"This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. <sup>37</sup> Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; <sup>38</sup> in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. [...]

<sup>44</sup> In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. <sup>45</sup> This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands – a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."

<sup>46</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honour and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. <sup>47</sup> The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery." The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery."

**Daniel 2:36-38 & 44-47**

What does the interpretation reveal about God's power?

## Key Truths

1. Any kingdom or company or city only exists and only has a future because God gives it. (v37)
2. God has set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed and will never be left to another people. It is the kingdom of Jesus. Jesus has defeated death, is unconquerable and will rule forever and so those under Jesus' rule, Christians, have an assured and secure future.
3. God's kingdom under Jesus does not depend on any human power, not even ours. It is made by 'no human hands.' (45)
4. Jesus' rule and authority overcomes any and every power structure in our world. (44)

## Application

Are there things that stop you from trusting God as the one who determines the future, including your future?

How should this shape our response to people that seem to threaten our security or future?

How should this shape our response to circumstances that seem to threaten our security or future?

*God is the one who gives us our ultimate security, our future rests completely in him. This means we can live for him knowing our future is secure in him.*

## Prayer

Pray for a deep reliance upon God who controls our future.

Pray for each other's unbelieving friends and colleagues. What is the next step with each one?

**It's easy to live under the illusion of freedom, not noticing the unseen forces that influence our actions. What we think is freedom could really be giving in to these powers. Are there any areas of life where you might be in danger of giving in?**

**BIG  
IDEA**

There are powerful forces that would seek to influence our actions but trusting in God means resisting them even in the face of death.

### From the Bible

<sup>4</sup> Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: <sup>5</sup> As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

**Daniel 3:4-7**

The middle managers bow down to the golden image because they are afraid of ol' Neb. He shapes their decisions. He is the CEO who calls the shots and they listen. Now contrast this with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego when Neb threatens them with death if they don't bow down to his golden image.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver

us from Your Majesty's hand. <sup>18</sup> But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

**Daniel 3:16-18**

What is the difference between God's power and Nebuchadnezzar's power?

## Key Truths:

1. Our God is perfectly capable of rescuing our heroes out of Neb's hands.
2. "God may choose not to rescue us, but either way, we will not serve your gods." This shows the true issue is not the golden image but choosing between Neb's power and God's power.
3. Idolatry – worship of something other than God – is more subtle and complicated in our hearts than we often think. Idolatry is a powerplay for our hearts.

## Application

So much of our success in the workplace seems to rise and fall on the power of leaders, managers, or colleagues. But that's not the case, God is able to rescue us from any power and any difficulty in this life. If we really trust God is the one who has ultimate power how would that change our lives?

However, in the end, you don't know if God will rescue you from corporate oblivion, from the fiery furnace of unemployment or social rejection. He calls his own shots for his own reasons. But it is always for your good. Consider Paul's words in Romans:

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him...

<sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us...

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 8:28, 31-34, 38-39**

*If something or someone other than God dictates your decisions or thinking to you then you are not free but in slavery. But if nothing can separate you from the love of God in Jesus, you have the freedom to throw off that slavery.*

## Prayer

Pray that we would resist the temptation to give in to the powerful forces in our day to day world.

Pray for someone who wields power in your life. Why not add them to the list of people that you regularly pray for?

**Where do people think their authority comes from?**

**What do they think contributes most to their rising or falling?**

**BIG  
IDEA**

Any authority we have is only because God has given it to us.  
This ought to lead to great humility.

Nebuchadnezzar looks at his kingdom and reflects ‘is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?’ (Daniel 4:29-32). So God strips Neb of his power and makes him live in the wilderness like an animal:

### From the Bible

At the end of that time I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honoured and glorified him who lives forever.

His dominion is an eternal dominion;

his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

<sup>35</sup> All the peoples of the earth

Are regarded as nothing.

He does as he pleases

with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth.

No one can hold back his hand

Or say to him: “What have you done?”

<sup>36</sup> At the same time my sanity was restored, my honour and splendour were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. <sup>37</sup> Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.”

**Daniel 4:34-37**



What does Nebuchadnezzar learn from his losing his mind?

## Key Truths:

1. Neb discovered God is the ultimate ruler – ‘for God’s dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation’
2. Neb discovered God is free to do what he wants and no one can stop him or hinder him. – ‘none can stay his hand’ (35)
3. Neb discovered that God gives power and leadership and rule. And God can take it away. The right response is worshipping God. (37)

## Application

Are you thankful to God for your position at work?

How do you relate to those who are “lower” than you?

Are you a humble leader? What would others say to this?

*God has placed you in the role you are in so lead humbly, pointing people to him and not yourself.*

## Prayer

Pray for your leadership in whatever role or form you exercise it. Pray for members of your group.

Pray that the way you as Christians exercise leadership points people to Jesus.