



HI HO! HI HO!

INTRODUCTION

One of the things the Holy Spirit does is encourage believers in their work. In reading the scriptures you realize God is still active, even today, and He is working. Work brings pleasure to the image of God in us.

DISCUSSION

How can the understanding that when God came in the flesh, worked as a carpenter for 30 years, help us all in our view of work?

EXPLANATION

What is the best job you have ever had?

What is the worst job you have ever had?

What would be your dream job?

Do you think your dream job is out of reach...do you think or feel that you have settled for less than you could be in your life?

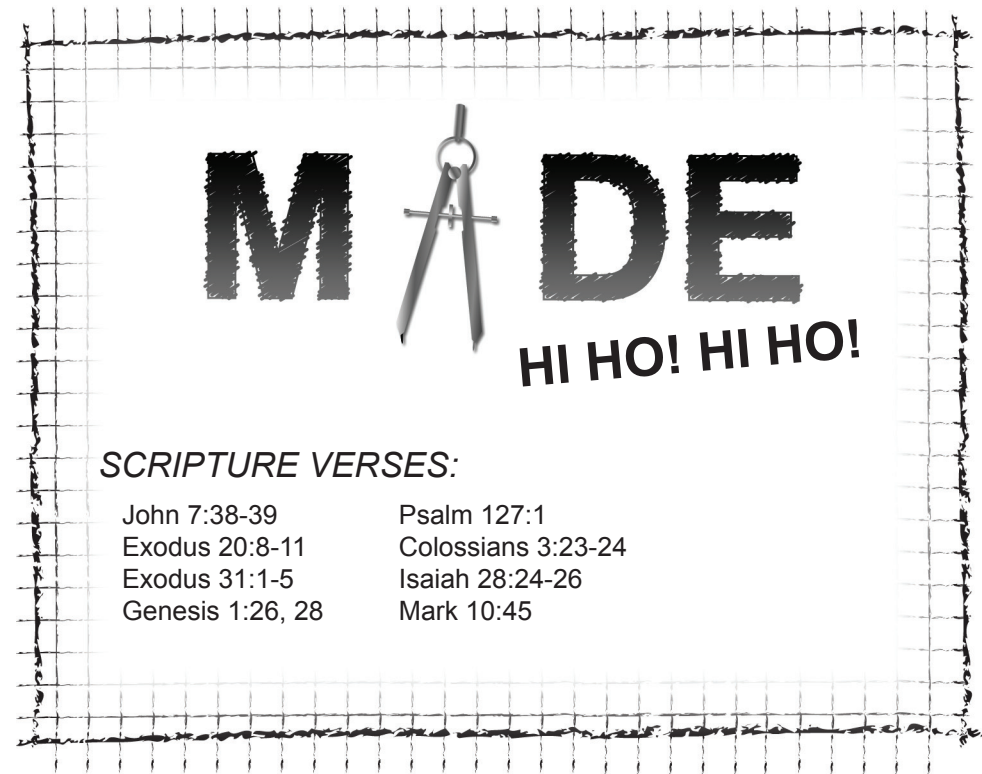
APPLICATION

Do you treat your work as a job, career, or calling?

What the things that you do, what do you find the most meaning in?

What things in your life do you feel that you are wasting too much of your time upon?

What do you think of Martin Luther's quote "*What you do in your house is worth as much as if you did it up in heaven for our Lord God.*"?



WEEK 7 NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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John 7:38-39 “Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”

When the words “Holy Spirit” are spoken it creates untold anxiety in people. It seems, in modern Christianity there are two extremes that people are pulled between: either they act as if the Holy Spirit doesn’t exist or they treat Him like an unstable Jazzercise instructor that speaks any language but the one we do. But the Holy Spirit is God, He is present, and He intends to lead, comfort, convict, and teach us to honor God’s image in us...but He also teaches us to work.

One of the things the Holy Spirit encourages in believers is work. In reading the scriptures we realize God is still active even today *and* He is working. Work brings pleasure to the image of God in us. The ultimate expression of how much God values work is Jesus the carpenter. Jesus spent more than three-quarters of his working life in the building profession, fashioning benches and tables and probably involved in construction.

The Bible is a book written by workers about workers for workers, but too often in discussion about “*spiritual life*” our work gets ignored. How do we work in a way that honors God?

• Discover Your Strengths

When you are working in something you love, the joy and power you feel can actually be presence of the Spirit. God’s plan is that the church (as a people) would be enriched when they are doing what He has created them to do. God Himself works with strength, freedom, and joy. When you discover your strengths, you are learning an indispensable part of what it means to be made in the image of God.

• Understand What You Receive When You Work

In Gen 1:26 & 28 God says human beings are to “rule” over the earth (it means to exercise “dominion.”) The word doesn’t mean “dominating” or “bossing around”, the idea behind the word means that we are to invest ourselves, to create value on the earth, to plant and build and write and organize and heal and invent in ways that bring Jesus glory, bless people, and make the earth flourish.



All skill is God-given, and we are invited to live in conscious interaction with the Spirit as we work. Work is a form of love. We cannot be fully human without creating value. When we are working in the flow of the service of God and his kingdom, when we are experiencing flow in activities that enhance and bless the lives of others around us — then we are working in the Spirit.

• Work To Honor God

Passion for our work is not lightning waiting to strike...It is a plant that needs to be cultivated. It is a muscle that gets strengthened as we do what is expected of us, and then some. *Col 3:23-24 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

• Make Work Part of Your Calling

All work was designed by God to be priestly work. It is not just pastors or missionaries who are called by God. You have a calling. You have been gifted. You are a priest. Your work is the primary place where your calling gets lived out.

Any work that has meaning, that can be a blessing to people and to the earth, can be a calling.

• View Work as Service to God

Jesus said *Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.* His is not a kingdom about status and climbing ladders and getting attention. To become the person God called you to be means you must serve...God’s kingdom is one of those kingdoms where if you don’t want to serve, you *don’t* really want to be there.

Martin Luther “What you do in your house is worth as much as if you did it up in heaven for our Lord God.”

