

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION (CALLED4WORK INSTITUTE) ABUJA

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction to the Theology of Work

Several separate files have been provided to accompany this outline and to facilitate your learning of the course. These include:

Session One

- Lecture Resource
- Scriptural Study

Session Two

- Lecture Resource

Session Four

- Lecture Resource

Session Five

- Lecture Resource
- Case Study: The Case of the Off-Course Counsel

Session Six

- Book Review Assignment

Use each Lecture Resource as a way to prepare your comments for the session. It will be more effective if you read through each session before commencing the class.

Three of the sessions include segments from the *Job Shadowing Daniel* set of videos not included here

In addition, links to videos available online will be included throughout the outline.

SESSION ONE—WHY WE WORK

Pre-Session Reading:

One week before the first session, students should read and complete the following readings before the session begins:

- Why Work?" by Dorothy Sayers
- Pages 1-20, *How Should We Then Work: Rediscovering the Biblical Doctrine of Work*, by Hugh Welchel

Introductory Lecture:

- Students will identify what they have understood or what they have been taught about the origin of work.
- Session One Lecture Resource (Discussion Questions optional.)

Discussion:

- Distribute printed copies of Session One Scriptural Study of Genesis 1:1 - 3:24. A volunteer will read each Scripture passage aloud, followed by discussion of each question on the handout.

Video/PowerPoint:

- View the video, "Created to Work," by Dennis Bakke,

Assignment:

The class is divided into sub-groups of three. Each sub-group will explain to each other (1) how work originated and (2) why God wants us to work. The whole group will come together to share insights gained in the groups of three.

Reading Assignment for Session 2:

Before this session ends, the students will read the following before taking part in Session 2:

- Work, by Gordon Presse (use password *bgu123*)
- Pages 21-44 *How Should We Then Work: Rediscovering the Biblical Doctrine of Work*, by Hugh Welchel

SESSION TWO—THE IMPORTANCE OF WORK

Lecture:

- Session Two Lecture Resource

Video/PowerPoint:

- Show Video from the *Job-Shadowing Daniel* set, Disc 3, Lesson 5.

Discussion:

The students will discuss on these questions related to Job-Shadowing Daniel video:

1. Why was Daniel able to see the value of his everyday work in Babylon?
2. Historically, what makes it difficult for Christians today to see the value of the work in a non-church-related job. After the interview, class members are to write a two- or three-paragraph summary of new insights gained from doing this interview. Each summary will be read aloud at the beginning of the next session. Class members should use these questions to write the summary.
 1. *How does God use my work to support me and my family?*
 2. *How does my work benefit those outside my family, regardless of their faith or lack of it, by supplying products or services they need?*
 3. *How does my work supply something needed by people-serving organizations?*
 4. *How might my work contribute to the upkeep of the earth itself?*
 5. *How does my work make it possible for others to extend the gospel?*
 6. *How does my work help create or maintain peaceful and quiet conditions on earth?*
 7. In your own view what do you understand by the word success?
 8. Do you see work as a punishment? If your answer is either yes or no justify it by giving reasons to your position

Reading Assignment for Session 3:

Before this session ends, students should read the following before taking part in Session 3:

- Pages 44-69, *How Should We Then Work: Rediscovering the Biblical Doctrine of Work*, by Hugh Whelchel

QUESTIONS ARISING FROM READING

1. What are the two fundamental lies and how do you correct the lies?
2. How do you clearly define talents, gifts and abilities?
3. What are the five foundational ideas about work?
4. In the light of this course, define parables
5. How did the young man's unfulfilled ambition explained?
6. What is success in the Biblical perspectives?

SESSION THREE—WORK AND CALLING

Conduct an interview with someone in a non-church related job

Reporting Back:

Each student will read aloud the two or three paragraphs summarizing the interview with someone in a non-church-related job. Invite discussion after each summary is read.

Lecture:

Access website articles by using the following three links. Take notes as you read these articles. Use your notes to create your lecture for this session.

- The difference between calling and work(visit the website)
- What are our primary/ secondary callings ?(visit the website)
- Different jobs same calling in christ (visit the website)

Video/PowerPoint:

- George Washington Carver video. (visit the website)
- Show Video from the *Job-Shadowing Daniel* set, Disc 1, Lesson 1.

Discussion:

- Before you began this course, how had you regarded your so-called “secular” work in terms of its value to the kingdom of God?
- In your own words, describe how the *Job-Shadowing Daniel* video explained the difference between God’s general call and his specific call. Do you agree or disagree? Tell why.

Assignment:

Class members to interview, between now and Session 4, three people who work in non-church-related jobs. Students should ask these questions and report back on their findings in the next session (1) *How did you come to have your present job?* (2) *Do you see the hand of God at work in that process? Explain your answer.*

1. *How does God use my work to support me and my family?*
2. *How does my work benefit those outside my family, regardless of their faith or lack of it, by supplying products or services they need?*
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4. *How might my work contribute to the upkeep of the earth itself?*
5. *How does my work make it possible for others to extend the gospel?*
6. *How does my work help create or maintain peaceful and quiet conditions on earth?*
7. In your own view what do you understand by the word success?
8. Do you see work as a punishment? If your answer is either yes or no justify it by giving reasons to your position

Reading Assignment for Session 4:

Before this session ends, ask participants to read the following before taking part in Session 4:

- Website Article: people and perspectives, sacred and secular a false dichotomy (visit the website)

- Pages 70-82, *How Should We Then Work: Rediscovering the Biblical Doctrine of Work*, by Hugh Welchel

SESSION FOUR—THE SACRED-SECULAR DIVIDE

Reporting Back:

- Students will tell what they learned from the three interviews assigned in the last session.

Lecture:

- Session Four Lecture Resource

Video/PowerPoint:

- Sacred-Secular Divide, Mark Greene, (Visit the website)
- Why Work Matters, by Tim Keller, (visit the website)

Discussion:

- What does the term “priesthood of all believers” mean to you?
- Explain what you understand Martin Luther to have meant when he called our work “the masks of God.”
- In your experience, what examples of “triumphalism” and “withdrawal” have you seen in church traditions?

Assignment:

- Copies of Session Five Case Study: The Case of the Off-Course Counsel will be distributed for students to read the case study and write their answers to the questions at the bottom of the sheet. Responses will be read aloud in the next session.

Reading Assignment for Session 5:

- Before this session ends, students should read the following before taking part in Session 5:
 - Pages 83-108, *How Should We Then Work: Rediscovering the Biblical Doctrine of Work*, by Hugh Welchel

SESSION FIVE--WORK AS STEWARDSHIP

Reporting Back:

- Students should read their answers to the questions relating to the case study, “The Case of the Off-Course Counsel.”

Lecture:

- Session Five Lecture Resource
- PowerPoint Videos A and B (click to advance after each slide narration) (These files will be sent via email.)

Discussion:

- How do you think what you have just learned about stewardship differs from what Christians typically think about it?
- How will understanding stewardship in this way change the way you approach your work?

Video/PowerPoint:

- “When Heaven Meets Earth” (visit the website)

Discussion:

- What did you see and hear in the video, “When Heaven Meets Earth,” that reflected biblical stewardship?
- How might you serve as a catalyst to engage your church or faith-based community in addressing needs that exist in your wider community or business?

Assignment:

- Students will explain to a Christian teenager (before the next session) what they have learned about stewardship as it relates to the workplace. Session Six will begin with reports on the reception by the young people.

Reading Assignment for Session 6:

Before this session ends, students should read the following before taking part in Session 6:

- “Mapless Travelers and Christian Cartographers,” Chapter 1, *Doing Right*, by David W. Gill (visit the website)
- *Pages 109-126, How Should We Then Work: Rediscovering the Biblical Doctrine of Work*, by Hugh Welchel

SESSION SIX—BIBLICAL ETHICS IN THE WORKPLACE

Reporting Back:

- Students should tell of their experiences in explaining stewardship to teenagers.

Lecture:

- To prepare for this session, students were to have read “Mapless Travelers and Christian Cartographers,” Chapter 1 from *Doing Right*, by David W. Gill. You may wish to introduce the class to him by means of this YouTube video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hITGUqGm84>

- For this week’s lecture, familiarize yourself with that chapter. The students will be lead through a discussion of these questions based on that chapter:
 - How does Gill define “cover principles” and “area principles”?
 - Do you believe the distinction between cover and area principles is helpful? Why or why not?
 - What are the four sources from which Gill advocates building a “Christian ethical map”?
 - Do you agree or disagree with any of these principles? Explain.
 - What three reasons does Gill offer as the purposes for Christian ethics?

Video/PowerPoint:

- Show Video from the *Job-Shadowing Daniel* set, Disc 3, Lesson 6.

Discussion:

- Students should respond to these “Now Go Do It” challenges at the conclusion of the *Job-Shadowing Daniel* video:
 - Identify five opportunities your work provides to mirror the way God works.
 - Honestly evaluate your relationship with your boss. Does your attitude point toward the obedient-servant attitude of Jesus?

Assignment:

For the final project of this course, the students will write a book review on *How Should We Then Work: Rediscovering the Biblical Doctrine of Work*, by Hugh Welchel (see Session Six Assignment: *Write a Book Review on How Should We Then Work?*)

This book review must be submitted by the students, graded by the instructor, and returned to the student before the course certificate will be awarded.

REQUIRED BOOKS

1. How should we then work: rediscovery biblical doctrine of work by Hugh Welchel...\$12 each
2. Job shadowing Daniel book by Prof. Larry D. Peabody \$ 11.78 each
3. Job Shadowing Daniel CDS of 14 lectures.....\$120 for a set

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

1. THE OTHER SIX DAYS BY R. PAUL STEVENS.....\$23 each
2. EVERY GOOD ENDEAVOR BY TIMOTHY KELLER WITH KATHERINE..... \$ 11 each
3. FIND A JOB YOU CAN LOVE BY RALPH T. MATTSON..... \$12 each
4. JOY AT WORK BIBLE STUDY COMPANION BY RAYMOND BAKKE, WILLIAM HENDRICKS AND BRAD SMITH

