



## Thank God It's Monday

### Week 2: When Work Feels Like Work

#### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four crucial components for a group to maintain its health: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out. In this guide, you will study the biblical passage in three steps: observation, interpretation, and application. As the group leader, you are free to use any part of this guide that can assist you in achieving this goal.

#### CONNECT

- When presented with really difficult work, how do you think you typically deal with it? Do you check out? Get frustrated?
- What is your understanding today about how sin has affected the work we do?
- Do you strive to worship God through your work? How?

#### INTRODUCTION

The good gift that is work has been corrupted—and we all know this to be true. We have all experienced difficulty in our work, bad colleagues, toxic workplaces, and frustrations when things just don't work out. Why is this? Why is this experience so ubiquitous? In short, it is the curse of sin that has plagued man since that fateful day in the garden of Eden. It has reduced all our labors in God's name to frustrated, fruitless toil—a chasing after the wind. Today, we will be studying the story of how this happened, and the effects on this side of the fall—all with an eye toward God-given purposeful work.

#### OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

**Read:** Genesis 3:16-19

- What do you notice about the curses God speaks over Adam and Eve with regard to their callings apart from the fall (cf. Gen 1:28; 2:15; 2:20b; 3:20)?
- How far-reaching ought we to think the fall really was (cf. Gen 3:17)?

**Read:** Ecclesiastes 2:9-11

- After all his efforts, at what conclusions does Qoheleth arrive concerning seeking meaning in wisdom, pleasure, and work?

**Read:** Ecclesiastes 2:18-23

- What does the futility of toil reveal about Qoheleth's heart (cf. Ecc 2:10, 15, 20, 22, 23)?

#### APPLICATION

**Read:** Ecclesiastes 2:24-26

- According to Qoheleth, how ought one to navigate the difficulty of sin's curse on our work?
- What might it mean for you to worship through your work according to Scripture?

Jesus saves our souls from damnation, but because he bore the entire curse of sin—including the frustration of our work—his atoning work heals our works. In Christ, all our labor can be worship infused with hope and joy.

- What would it mean for you to repent where your work was concerned? Do you tend to idolize it, despair of it, or run from it?

#### PRAYER

- Pray that the Lord reveals the importance of worshipful work in a new light, given the curse of sin.
- Repent where the curse upon work has tempted you away from submitting your labor to God as worship.