

**Thank God It's Monday**



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# **WEEK 4**

## **THE FUTURE OF 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

- What kinds of jobs do you expect to see more of in coming years? What kinds of jobs do you think will disappear?
- What are some ways this series on work has changed the way you think about your own work?
- What questions still feel unanswered for you regarding faith and work?

# INTRODUCTION

In this final week of looking at what the Bible says about work, we're going to look to the future. In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul says that everybody's work is going to be tested when Jesus returns. Certain kinds of work will pass the test, others won't. Those who work in a way that passes the test will receive a reward, but those whose work is deemed worthless will suffer loss. So, a really important question for us is, "What kind of work will God reward?"

# OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 3:5–15

Paul sees his work as an assignment from the Lord (v. 5). What are some alternative, wrong ways to view work?

Paul uses two major metaphors in this passage—one where work is like cultivating plants, and one where the test of our work will be like a house fire that destroys some things but not others. What are your main takeaways from these metaphors?

The idea of working for a reward (v. 14) might seem strange at first. (After all, our salvation is by grace through faith.) Thinking about

other Bible passages, what is a healthy way to think about rewards from God?

## APPLICATION

- Do you think the way you're carrying out your assignment from God will pass the test? Why or why not?
- As 1 Corinthians continues, it becomes clear that a distinguishing mark of work that passes the test is that it's done in love. What does it look like for you to do your work to love others?
- The foundation of all good work is Jesus Christ (v. 11). How does the gospel shape or reshape the way you think about work?



# **PRAYER**

- Spend time praising Jesus for his saving work.
- Ask God to clarify what his assignment is for you.
- Ask God for vision and hope regarding your work.

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