

# MODULE 6 EMPLOYMENT READINESS

This module explores the intrinsic value of work and how God created us to be productive. As Creator God, He was a worker too. These sessions also introduce tools and approaches to procuring work upon release.

## SESSION 1: ATTITUDE TO WORK

### Key Ideas for This Session:

- The Bible has a very positive view of work. Doing something useful in order to contribute to the greater community is promoted in the Bible.
- God wants us to have good things. Having a job that you deeply enjoy and that uses your talents is an important thing to pursue.
- Key verse: Isaiah 1:19:  
*If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land.*

### Is work a curse or a blessing?

Work is a reality of life and a huge part of life. There are some who would define work as a blessing. It gives us a healthy sense of purpose and a means to earn a living. With a job, we can pay our bills, provide for our families, support our community by paying taxes, save money for retirement, and share with and help others who are in need.

Unfortunately, however, many people do not view work as a blessing. They see it as just being something unpleasant that cannot be avoided. They have not had good experiences with work or the responsibilities associated with it. When we were children, we may have complained about our chores or schoolwork as not being fun. Someone may have told us, “Work is not supposed to be fun; that’s why they call it work!”

People spend years of their lives just putting in time at a job so that they can retire. Many spend a lot of energy, time, and money on recreation in order to

escape the drudgery of the work week. For many people, the weekend, or their day off, is all that matters.

List some reasons people give to justify a negative attitude toward work.

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What has been your own work experience?

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The following statements represent different attitudes people have about work. Place an "X" beside all the statements that best reflect how you view work:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Work is something necessary to do but not particularly enjoyable.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work is just a way to make money so I can do what I really want.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work is about getting ahead and achieving a certain lifestyle.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work is a way to get the respect of others because of my achievements.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work is a way to use my gifts and abilities, and it is a way for me to do something meaningful and purposeful.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work is all about serving and helping others, to make a difference.

What are some negative ways you have viewed work in the past?

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The Bible has much to teach about work. Look up each of the following Bible verses and summarize what each one says about working or not working.

2 Thessalonians 3:12

***Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat.***

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Proverbs 31:27

*She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

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Ephesians 4:28

*Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.*

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Proverbs 12:27

*The lazy do not roast any game, but the diligent feed on the riches of the hunt.*

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Proverbs 22:29

*Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank.*

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Proverbs 19:15

*Laziness brings on deep sleep, and the shiftless go hungry.*

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Proverbs 12:24

*Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labour.*

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Ecclesiastes 10:18

*Through laziness, the rafters sag; because of idle hands, the house leaks.*

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Why do you think the Bible has such a positive view towards work?

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Read Romans 8:28

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.*

Do you think God wants you to be satisfied in your job?

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Isaiah 1:19

*If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land.*

Psalms 107:9

*For He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.*

Proverbs 13:21

*Trouble pursues the sinner, but the righteous are rewarded with good things.*

What is the promise given in these verses? Do you believe it? Why or why not?

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If you are not satisfied in your work, what might you do about it?

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Break into small groups and discuss the following if there is time, or consider these topics this week:

- *For a job to be God-honouring it should be legitimate, pure and positive. Do you agree that a job should also bring peace and joy? Consider some of the Scripture from this session in your answer.*
- *Why is the Bible so against laziness and “idle hands”?*
- *Consider the different jobs you have done throughout your life. What have you loved and what has not been a good fit—and why?*