

LESSON 1 Devotional

Your Work Matters to God

Peter, who owned an architectural firm with multiple locations, was invited to a faith-at-work event. The guest speaker shared how he came to the realization that God had called him into the business world to use his business to glorify God.

This message rocked Peter's world! Up to that point, Peter had been a Christian, but he had never considered that God had a purpose for his business other than making money. He soon began a journey of exploring the Bible and various books to see how his faith could better intersect with his business.

Through that journey, Peter realized that he had been treating his employees more like a tyrant than a shepherd. He felt that since he paid them, they owed him, and he treated them accordingly. This paradigm shift led to a commitment to change how he led his employees. Seeing this change, a suspicious staff member questioned what he saw, thus opening a door and allowing Peter to share his faith.

Peter's pursuit of learning more about what God's Word says about work led him to sign up for a Master of Divinity degree online. Upon completion, he naturally assumed God was leading him to become a pastor. While considering how to sell the business and trying to determine where God was leading, he was invited to go on a mission trip to Africa.

The LORD God took
the man and put him
in the garden of
Eden to work it and
keep it.

Genesis 2:15

On that trip, Peter marveled at how God used his architectural skills to help African communities design and build needed facilities that enhanced the community and provided for some of their basic needs.

Upon returning, he began to pray and wrestle with God about the direction he should take. Should he become a pastor or continue in business with a more intentional focus on glorifying God with his talents? Peter was particularly captured by Ephesians 2:10, *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which he prepared for us in advance.”* The question he was wrestling with was, “What had God prepared him for in the future?”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe God would be more pleased with Peter as a pastor or a businessman? Why?

2. Imagine Peter 5 years later—first as a pastor and second, as a businessman. Discuss the possible Kingdom impact that could be achieved by each, considering:

- a. the number and kinds of people reached,
- b. the opportunity to connect with the lost, and
- c. the value Peter could bring to others.

3. What would you do if you were Peter? What feelings might impact your decision? How would you make your decision?

4. What are some of the “good works” Peter could do through his business to better impact the Kingdom? How hard might it be for Peter to make those changes if he has unbelievers in his workplace?

5. How does, or how should, God’s vocational calling for you and the message of Ephesians 2:10 impact your work?

6. For further study and reflection, review Colossians 3, Exodus 31, and Ecclesiastes 5:18-20.
