

NOTES



PRAYER

O Yahweh, my God, as I set out for work today, help me to be light at the office and a source of inspiration to our clients and my colleagues. Put the right words in my mouth that will build others up and give them hope. Lord, help me to be a source of blessing to those people that are going through difficult times. Fill my workplace with peace and remove anything that may bring strife. Be our shield and guide in everything that we do. In Jesus' name, I believe and pray, Amen.

Prayers for Peace at Work - connectusfund.org

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

What is the most valuable or important thing that you owned and remember seeing broken or ruined? What happened?



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WORD

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." 18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

[Genesis 2:15-21](#)

17 And to Adam he said,
"Because you have listened to the voice of
your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of
your life;
18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for
you;

[Genesis 3:17-21](#)

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." I don't know who coined this popular piece of fortune cookie wisdom, but I can tell you they never read Genesis 3.

After sin entered the world, God said that work will be "painful toil...all the days of your life." Not "painful toil...until you choose a job you love." Work will be frustrating until the New Earth (see Isaiah 65:17-23).

Now, I love what I do. I've never been more confident that creating content like these devotionals is the work God created me to do. And Lord willing, I'll be helping you connect the gospel to your work for the next 50 years.

But even though I love my work, it sure feels like work some days. It's hard, frustrating, and exhausting at times.

But here's what I'm learning: Even though God never designed work to be painful (see Genesis 1 and 2), there are still great blessings to be found in the curse. There are reasons to give thanks for the "thorns and thistles" that make work difficult.

Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

and you shall eat the plants of the field.
19 By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."
20 The man called his wife's name Eve,
because she was the mother of all living.
21 And the Lord God made for Adam and for
his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

But if all of our paths were already straight, we wouldn't see much of a need to "trust in the Lord with all our heart" would we? And so, we can thank God when we can't see which path to take in our work because our lack of clarity forces us to "walk humbly with our God" (see Micah 6:8).

Where is the path painfully unclear in your work today? Are you frustrated with a boss or client and not sure how to deal with them? Are you unclear on how you're going to hit payroll this month? Are you simply burnt out and don't see a light at the end of the tunnel?

Lament over your "painful toil." Then go to the Lord in prayer and ask him to "make your paths straight." Then thank him for the "thorns and thistles" he's using to lead you to rely on him.

[Jordan Raynor - Thanks For Thorns And Thistles](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being never and 10 being always), how would you rate your ability to work when you are uninspired? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. Do you see the work you do as worship, or as toil? Why have you chosen this?
3. When you look at the things you use in your life, and what you do every day, what would you say you do more: PRODUCE or CONSUME? Are you more a producer or consumer?
4. What is the difference between the fig leaves and the garments of skins and clothes that Adam and Eve clothed themselves with in Genesis 3? Which do you think you are spiritually clothed in if ever?
5. Do you want to trust Jesus as the Ruler and sole source of fulfilment of your life by accepting His call for you to enter into relationship with Him? Please take this moment to pray with your group. Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your lifegroup leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am Yours, and You are mine, In Jesus name, AMEN.