

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

Faith & Work ⑤

INTRODUCTION | The toil of work: why is work difficult?

In work there is toil and hardship. Why is that? In looking at this topic, I want to first explore the origin of the burden found in work. Work as burdensome has its root in humanity's sin and humanity's separation from God. Secondly, I want us to look at what makes work burdensome. What is the mechanism that makes work a burden? Thirdly, I want us to look at how we can deal with the burdens of work and where we can find comfort from the burdens of work. To condense these points, we can say that sin is the root of the burden, there is a mechanism that cause work to be a burden and there is deep comfort in the midst of that burden.

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 3:16-19

16 To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." 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; 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."

Let's Think |

- 1: According to the scriptures, what influence does sin have on human relationships and work? Although work is a wonderful thing in itself, share with one another your struggles and difficulties at work. What are the difficulties you face?
- 2: What do you think about humanity's separation from God, the prohibition to eat from the tree, the attempt at becoming like God and the burden that becomes attached to work itself?
(ref Gen 2:18, 3:4-5)
- 3: (verses 17-18)
It is written that because of sin the land will be cursed producing thorns and thistles. In your current work what "thorns and thistles" do you see?
- 4: According to verse 16 humanity's heart is fundamentally changed. Love becomes cold, there is separation, distrust, fear and anger between husband and wife. What fear and anxiety do you see in or at your workplace? In light of that fear and anxiety what bad results are invited to come in?
- 5: (verses 18-19) Even Though the land is cursed with thorns and thistles, people are still able to eat the produce of the land. Even though you have to work to the point of exhaustion you can still receive your portion. What does this mean? How can we praise and take comfort in this?
- 6: Even though God justly punishes sin, that is not the end of the story. If you look at the the scripture referenced below, discuss the comfort and protection provided. (Ref Genesis 3:21)

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

Let's read |

Genesis 2:17, 3:4-5

2:17 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.”

3:4-5 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Genesis 3:21

21 And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

PRAYER |

•Even Though We have sinned against God and have been separated from Him, nevertheless the wonderful value of work is not changed. God has invited us to come and work alongside of Him. Let us pray that we can discover the the joy and praise worthy nature of our work.

•Share with one another some of the difficulties and struggles of your work environment. Pray with and for one another. If for some reason your walk with God is suffering, return to Christ your righteous sacrifice and walk with God anew.

UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

1. Grace city gospel choir (6/6)
2. Lunchtime meetings (Akasaka 6/7, Kasumigaseki 6/8, Otemachi 6/9)
3. Sunday Worship (6/12 “Hung on the cross”)
4. Lunchtime meetings (Kudanshita 6/14, Marunouchi 6/15, Otemachi 6/16)
5. Obento project (6/18)
6. Sunday worship (6/19 “Profitable work”)