WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Notes

Series Title: Summer in Philippians - Part 5 – Joy at Work

Key Scripture: Phil 2:19-30

Recorded Sermon: http://www.woodvale.ca/pastservices

Date + Speaker: July 30, 2023 Pastor Mark Scarr

Starter Question:
1. What was/were your first job(s) growing up? How much did you get paid an hour? Did you enjoy it? Why or why not? Since *the fall*, work has often been associated with a 'necessary evil', something that has to be done to pay for food and lodging. Occasionally we meet someone who loves his or her work and is completely fulfilled. We view them often as exceptions to the rule. Pastor Mark challenges this mindset and shares 6 ways to get more joy out of any kind of work. [Have pens/pencils and slips of paper available for each group member]

Discussion Questions to Review (observation):
2. Read Philippians 2:19-30. Invite the group members to share words and phrases that stand out to them and why. Focus on those words and phrases that describe how Paul might have felt about those he worked with.
3. In the Church of Lydia (currently standing near archeological site of ancient Philippi) is a mosaic icon of Epaphroditus. From the text, what characteristics made this coworker stand out?

Discussion Questions for Digging Deeper (interpretation and application):
[In preparation for this discussion consider reviewing this piece as an adjunct to the sermon: https://www.theologyofwork.org/resources/what-does-the-bible-say-about-work/]
4. The 6 ways to get more joy out of our work hinge on one key truth: we must take the focus off of ourselves. Review the 3 suggestions Pastor Mark made as to how to do this and, as a result, show a genuine interest in those we work with. What external and internal factors hinder us from doing this?
5. Distribute the pieces of paper. Pause and lead the group in prayer about their coworkers, bosses and workplaces. Thank God for placing them there for this season. Have them write down the name of at least one coworker whom they will commit to pray for and to whom they might show the love of God.
6. Contributing to a culture of excellence, honour and respect in the workplace involves many of the strategies shared by Pastor Mark (work hard, don't cut corners, praise publically, discipline privately, make your boss look good etc.). What other ways can/have the group members accomplished this?
7. Read Colossians 3:23 Recall what Pastor Mark said about 'becoming the manager of the interests of Jesus at your workplace'. Invite the group members to share what that might look like for them this week? Many of your group members will spend at least ½ of their waking day at their workplaces. Brainstorming practical ways of supporting one another in their workplace 'ministry' is critical.