

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of May 3, 2015

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁸ This is what I have seen to be good: it is fitting to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of the life God gives us; for this is our lot. ¹⁹ Likewise all to whom God gives wealth and possessions and whom he enables to enjoy them, and to accept their lot and find enjoyment in their toil—this is the gift of God. ²⁰ For they will scarcely brood over the days of their lives, because God keeps them occupied with the joy of their hearts.

Common English Bible (CEB)

¹⁸ This is the one good thing I've seen: it's appropriate for people to eat, drink, and find enjoyment in all their hard work under the sun during the brief lifetime that God gives them because that's their lot in life. ¹⁹ Also, whenever God gives people wealth and riches and enables them to enjoy it, to accept their place in the world and to find pleasure in their hard work—all this is God's gift. ²⁰ Indeed, people shouldn't brood too much over the days of their lives because God gives an answer in their hearts' joy.

Connection Questions:

1. The average American spends eight to ten hours at their job, a third of the day. Talk about how many hours you spend on average at your work place.

2. Share whether the work you are involved with is fulfilling to you or not and why or why not.

3. The writer of Ecclesiastes says that, "... it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given to them." Discuss any wisdom you glean from the writer of our text.

4. When our work aligns with our God given gifts, how does it simplify things for us?

5. What makes a healthy work environment?

6. How do you find a balance between work compensating us financially, allowing for our passion, and challenging our abilities to grow?

7. Through this sermon series we have talked about finding a balance between being and doing. Discuss how we can find a balance between our work and “being” in our daily lives.

8. How can a mature relationship with God help us in addressing our issues with work?

9. Has God ever tapped you on the shoulder and moved you in a different career choice? Share you stories, if you have any. If not, discuss how your present job is enhancing who you are as a child of God.