



Sharing Our Gifts As We Work for the Lord Bible Study

[Please provide: Bibles, hymnals, copies of this Bible study]

Opening Prayer: Dear Lord, we thank You for each and every woman with us to study Your Word, as well as for the opportunity to develop and nurture our relationships with one another. Open our hearts and minds to learn more about You and Your Will for our lives. Help us to focus on the truths found in Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Introduction

Share with your group something about the kind of work and a bit about the different roles you have in your life. Do you ever ask yourself these questions: "What on earth am I here for?" "Am I doing what God wants me to do?" "Why do I have to work?" "Why am I sometimes overwhelmed?" In the business of our earthly lives, we often find ourselves with these questions and others related to our day-to-day responsibilities.

Sing: "Take My Life and Let It Be," LSB 783, TLH 400, LB 404

What phrases or verses of this hymn speak to you? _____

What do the lyrics of the hymn say concerning how we are to use our skills and talents in our work both inside and outside our homes? _____

Read Exodus 35:4–29. What were God's people commanded to do (vv.4–10)? _____

Reread verse 21. What motivated God's people to be generous in their giving? _____

What special work did the women do? See verses 25–26. _____

Read Exodus 35:31–35. How did Bezalel work for the Lord as the tabernacle was built?

Who motivated Bezalel to work as he did? _____

What truths concerning how we are to work can you glean from Bezalel's example as well as from the women who worked in the tabernacle? _____

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 and Ephesians 2:10. How has God specially equipped us to work for Him? _____

God knows us very intimately and has designed each one of us uniquely (Psalm 139:13). Each of us is designed or wired differently. That uniqueness sets us apart to serve God in many different ways. We are designed by God Himself to do His work. We are His masterpieces. He created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago. We are all baptized into one body but it is a body made up of many members – each one unique with a special purpose (1 Corinthians 12:12–13).

God works through the different skills, abilities, and talents with which He has blessed us to do the work of His kingdom here on earth. Think about the skills, talents, and abilities given to the women in your LWML society. How has God used these in the work that you do for Him?

What The Bible Says About Work

Read Genesis 2:15. What work did God give Adam to do in the garden of Eden? _____

How was Adam's original occupation different from any work he would ever do outside of Eden?

What does this say concerning the reason God gives us work to do? _____

The work God gives us to do is a gift from Him. Read the following Bible passages. What does each one say concerning how we are to work for Him?

Proverbs 10:4: _____

Ecclesiastes 5:18: _____

Romans 12:11: _____

1 Corinthians 15:58: _____

Colossians 3:23: _____

Titus 3:14: _____

How does your current attitude about your work reflect the work attitude that God desires us to have? _____

Seeking God's Will In Our Work

Read Matthew 25:14–28. What led the third servant to hide the talent his master gave him?

In terms of our own work, what can lead us to be like the third servant in Jesus' parable?

When we repent for our disobedience for not using what God has given us to serve Him and to bring Him glory, what does He promise us? See 1 John 1:9. _____

When our work is difficult and burdensome, what truths from the following Bible passages can help us to work joyfully for the Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit?

Deuteronomy 31:6–8: _____

1 Chronicles 16:11: _____

Psalms 32:8: _____

Proverbs 3:5: _____

Jeremiah 29:11: _____

Mark 10:42–45: _____

1 Peter 4:10: _____

Our Pledge Of Service To God

Speak together these words of the LWML Pledge:

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption, we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him.

How do the words of this pledge remind us of the reason for all of the work we do? _____

The LWML theme Bible verse is *Serve the LORD with gladness!* (Psalm 100:2) God gives each one of us a unique set of gifts, skills, abilities, and talents. God is our Father who loves us. As we respond to God's mercy and forgiveness, the Holy Spirit empowers us to serve Him and others. Through His Word and Sacraments, He strengthens us to work for Him. He blesses us to be blessings to others and to be lights of His saving love.

Sing: "Lord of All Good," LSB 786

Closing Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, You have shown us in Your Word how wonderfully we are designed, the work we are to do, and the light we are to be to the rest of the world. Guide us in discovering our talents, skills, and abilities and the direction You want us to take no matter what season of our life in which we may be. Help us to trust You and to show others Jesus in meaningful ways, even in the little things in life. In Your precious Name we pray. Amen.

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