

# Lesson Three: Press On to Work that Matters

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Part of Press On Follow Up Study  
February 8, 2022

## **Lesson Three: Press On to Work that Matters**

One of the struggles that most men have today is figuring out how their work and faith intersect. Am I doing anything of significance for God? Can I only serve Him in “full-time Christian work?” Does this work have any lasting value? These are hard questions that we will pursue in this lesson.

The average man spends about 100,000 hours working over his lifespan. A major part of a man’s life is involved in work. Henry Ford said, “There is joy in work. There is no happiness except in the realization that we have accomplished something”. Is our day-to-day job to be our highest calling? Mark Twain said, “Work is a necessary evil to be avoided”. Was he right? What is your attitude about your work?

Regardless of your current job situation, you have a job to do. But, do you embrace it with vigor, approach it with dread, or simply plod through it? In this lesson, we hope to help you discover what it means as a man to work; and how one can incorporate one’s faith into one’s work.

### **Warm-Up Question:**

Share with the guys what the best – and the worst – job you have ever had was.

### **Bible Study**

The scriptures have much to say on the topic of work, its calling, and its purpose in our lives. While some see their work as a struggle, something they have to endure, God sees it as a gift to us, something to enjoy and bring Him glory. Read through the following passages as a group to learn more about God’s design for work and then discuss the questions after.

Genesis 1:26-28

Genesis 2:15

Colossians 3:23

1 Corinthians 10:31

Romans 12:1-2

Romans 13:8-10

## **Discussion Questions**

What do you learn about God from these passages?

What do you learn about work from these passages?

How has your attitude towards and perspective of work been challenged?

How can work become an idol in our lives?

Tim Keller in his book, *Every Great Endeavor*, says this about work, “Your daily work is ultimately an act of worship to the God who called and equipped you to do it – no matter what kind of work it is.”

Based on the scriptures you read and this quote, what is the application for each of you?

## **Talk by Afshin Ziafat**

You are now going to take time to discuss and apply the talk given by Afshin Ziafat at the 2022 No Regrets Men’s Conference. The talk is called “[How a man’s work matters to God](#)” and it can be found on the No Regrets app under Conference Media/2022 Platform talks.

Born in Houston, Afshin moved with his family to their native country of Iran when he was two years old. Amid the Iranian Islamic Revolution, Afshin’s family moved back to Houston at age six. In the second grade, he was given a Bible by a tutor who was teaching him the English language. He read that Bible 10 years later as a senior in high school and came to faith in Christ.

Ultimately, his family would disown him because of his faith in Christ, and he began to understand the call of Christ on each of our lives—to follow Jesus regardless of the cost.

Afshin received his undergraduate degree in history from the

University of Texas at Austin. He went on to receive his Master of Divinity with Biblical Languages degree from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. He is the lead pastor at Providence Church. In 2008, he married the love of his life, Meredith. Afshin and Meredith have three young children.

### **Discussion Questions**

What is one thing you found most challenging about this talk

Afshin suggests that “God created a world that needed to be worked because he created man to be a co-worker.” How might this idea impact your philosophy of work?

Afshin mentions two ways sin has corrupted our attitude toward work: we either idolize it or just do enough to get by. Which of these would explain your outlook on your work?

How can you worship God and reflect His character at your job?

How can you be a more effective ambassador for Christ?

### **Sharing and Prayer Time**

Each man should briefly share what his work situation is with the whole group. In your work. Do you feel as if you are accomplishing something of significance in God’s eyes in your work?

How can the men pray for you and your work situation?

One or two of the men pray for the items that were mentioned.

### **Wrap Up**

Close your time by giving thanks for the jobs you have and asking God that might bring Him glory in what you do.

### **Assignment for Next Week**

For next week you will be listening to the talk given by Larry Osborne at the 2022 No Regrets Men’s conference. The talk was entitled: [‘Five Truths about spiritual growth nobody talks about anymore’](#) and can be found on the No Regrets App under conference media, 2022 Platform speakers. There is a place for notes in Lesson Four.

\*The app will not necessarily save your fill-in notes. Please click on

email and email the lesson with your notes to yourself.

*All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence”*

*—Martin Luther King, Jr.*