

# leave a mark

## Week Four - Leave a Mark on Your Workplace

### BOTTOM LINE

Some of the purist and most effective forms of ministry happen outside of church settings. What if you could shine a light where you spend the majority of the hours of your day?

### GOAL OF THE GROUP

As you look at scripture together, you will discuss how you can bring God's light into the place you spend most of your waking hours – into the unique work place God has called you to.

### SCRIPTURE

Acts 17:16-21, Matthew 5:13-16, Colossians 3:23-24

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share: Beginning in the book of Genesis, and throughout the bible, we learn that work is a good thing created by God. It is not meant to be a curse or to cause suffering. How do you currently feel about the work you are engaged in? How would you describe your workplace?
2. Read Acts 17:16-21 together
  - a. Paul was distressed because the city was "full of idols" (vs 16) One definition of idol is: an image of a god that is used for worship. Another definition is: a person or thing that is greatly admired, loved or revered. Considering the latter definition, it could be said that we are currently living in a city that is "full of idols". Can you name some of the things that people are holding as idols in our current culture? Do you find it distressing, as Paul did?
  - b. Paul reasoned, or argued and disputed, giving his reasons out of scripture, and answering objections. He did this in the Synagogue, and where else?
  - c. The philosophers called Paul a babbler. Do you think Paul was discouraged or embarrassed by this? How might you react if you were in his shoes? In light of them calling him a babbler, why do you think they invited him to a meeting at the Aeropagus?
3. Read Matthew 5:13-16 together
  - a. In these verses, salt and light are identified as things that can be blessings to the world. No matter where you go, you have the opportunity to be salt and light. Salt can only be effective as a preservative or seasoning if it touches the food it is to preserve or season. Light can only shine if it isn't hidden or covered. Do you feel you have these blessings to share with the people you come into contact with regularly? Can you give an example of a time you felt like salt or light in the workplace or somewhere outside of church?
  - b. Think about the sayings "it's like salt in the wound" and "the light was blinding". Good things like salt and light can be blessings, or they can be harmful. Can you think of ways that the blessing of salt and light could turn from a good thing to possibly harmful? Do you have examples?
4. Read Colossians 3:23-24 together
  - a. Some people find themselves in a "marketplace" that is difficult or just unreceptive to sharing anything about the hope they have. According to these verses, what can someone do if that's the case?
  - b. There is a quote attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi that says: "Preach the gospel at all times. When necessary, use words." Do you consider your attitude and work ethic in the "marketplace" to be a form of preaching the gospel? Do you have any specific examples?

"The Christian shoemaker does his duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship."  
Martin Luther



## TRY THIS

I will leave a mark on my workplace/school by...

- 1) Inviting someone to join me for lunch
- 2) Encouraging someone with a random act of kindness.