

Who Do You Work For?

2025-03-10 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



2 Corinthians 4:16-18

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Everyone lives under some authority. The question is which one. Pastor Matt walked through the ones that quietly take the top spot: society and its trends, other people's approval, career, even family. None of them are evil. All of them are temporary. His point about work was the heart of it: your job is not an obstacle to your faith. Commit your work to the Lord and excellence on the job becomes a witness instead of a distraction from one. And Paul gives the scale: the trouble of any given week is light and momentary next to an eternal weight of glory.

To get started

- Whose approval do you find yourself working for most weeks?

Looking back at the message

The scrolling illustration will land immediately. Start there rather than with the theology.

- 1 Pastor Matt described feeling worse after scrolling through someone's highlight reel. When does that happen to you?
- 2 Pastor Matt said if you live under the authority of whatever is trending, you are guaranteed to be unhappy, because the trend always moves. Where do you see that in your own week?
- 3 Pastor Matt was blunt that family, good as it is, can become the excuse for not doing what God asked: too busy, kids struggling, relatives in town. When has family been your excuse rather than your reason? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Luke 14:26 needs its context. Say plainly that it is emphatic language, not literal hatred.

- 4 Read Luke 14:25-27. Jesus uses shocking language about family. What is he actually asking for?
- 5 Read Proverbs 16:3. What are we told to commit, and what is promised in return?
- 6 Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Paul calls his affliction light and momentary. Given what Paul went through, what makes him able to say that?
- 7 Read Colossians 3:23-24. Who does this passage say you actually work for? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The credit question hits people who have worked hard. Handle it with respect, not scolding.

- 8 Pastor Matt pushed back on self-made thinking: you did not put the roof over your family's head alone, because God gave the job, the health, and the opportunities behind it. How does that sit with you?
- 9 If you committed this week's work to God on Monday morning, what would be different by Friday?
- 10 Which authority is loudest in your life right now: society, people's approval, career, or family?
- 11 Pastor Matt said his wife enjoys movies more because she reads the ending first, and believers get to live that way, because we know how God's story ends. What would that perspective change about your current stress? OPTIONAL

The group together

Most people in the room work with people who will never come to church. That is the point.

- 12 How could simply doing your job with excellence be a witness to the person who works next to you?
- 13 What makes it hard to talk about faith at work?
- 14 Who in your workplace could this group pray for by name this week?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is one thing you will do this week specifically because Jesus is your authority, not your boss or your feed?

You might pray about

- For people in the group carrying pressure at work
- For freedom from the approval of others
- For eyes on what is unseen rather than what is urgent
- For coworkers who are far from God