

The Four Priorities Chapter 26

Book by John Tolson

Facilitator Guide by Reclamation Church

Chapter 26: Work

Note: The timelines below are only a guide, as well as the questions to ask. Make this your own and go where the Holy Spirit leads you. Take your time and, when needed, break this chapter into several meetings.

Some potential responses to the questions in this guide are written in **green** and are only intended to aid the discussion. You may consider other ideas beyond the ones provided.

**Open
(10 min.)**

Spend a few minutes each week catching up with one another, then share prayer requests.

Do: Open in prayer.

**Recap
(5 min.)**

Briefly give a summary of your meeting last week. We discussed:

- How to engage in conversation with nonbelievers. It is important to have nonbelievers in our lives so we can help them recognize their need for a Savior.
- Passions and Gifts given to believers by the Holy Spirit, and our need to understand what God has given us, so that we can serve others in the unique way that He made us.

Ask:

- Have you put any more thought into these passions and gifts?
 - Have you recognized anyone within the body of Christ using their gifts well? Explain.
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RECLAMATION
— CHURCH —

**Overview, |
(10 min.)**

Say: As the author opens Chapter 26, he mentions the value of our work.

Ask:

- How does our Christian work (using our passions and gifts) and a time of rest fit into God's overall program?
- What should be our motivation and attitude toward employment?
- Give your experience of enjoying the work of your hands.
- How was Howard Dayton working in his area of passion and giftedness? (page 246 under Attitudes Toward Employment)

**Historical and
Biblical
Perspective,
pgs 247-251
(30 min.)**

Ask: How would you say the idea of work has changed over the centuries? What jobs have always been done and seen as valuable/needed? (These might include farming, governing, etc.)

Say: The author mentions that over the centuries, man's view of work has changed or morphed. It began with meaningful and enjoyable work in the garden, caring for God's creation. However, after the fall, work became toilsome. Philosophers came along and sat for long periods, contemplating life. The Reformers and Puritans introduced 4 attitudes toward work. Let's explore those.

Ask: What were your findings for:

- Attitude 1: The sanctity of All Honorable Work.
- Attitude 2: God calls every person to his or her vocation.
- Attitude 3: The motivation and goals of work.
- Attitude 4: A sense of moderation in work.

Do: Read and discuss the scriptures provided in the Biblical Perspective. Exodus 35:20-35. (Take note of how God brought everyone together in these efforts of contributing, creating, building, and teaching.)

**(Take Action
(15-30 min.)**

Read through and discuss the questions at the end of the chapter.

**Close
(5 min.)**

Homework:

Read Chapter 27 (and referenced scriptures in the Bible) and come prepared with questions you might have from this chapter, as well as completing the end-of-chapter questions.

Close in prayer.