

This Truth Module addresses the workplace issue of:

Am I keeping a connection with God and my family in the midst of my hectic work life?



The Damage of a Hectic Pace



Laura sat at the desk in her hotel room—blankly staring at her laptop. From the world’s point of view, she had it all. She was a successful sales rep who had won numerous awards. She was the proud mom of two beautiful, well-adjusted children and the wife of a husband who adored her. And she even made time for serving at church and helping coach her daughter’s soccer team. It all looked great—so why was she sitting in a distant town, wondering if this was all there was to life?

Her mind went back to her sales rep interview process three years earlier. When asked what her priorities were, she surprised herself with the ease at which she answered: “My first priority is my relationship with God. If that is in line, then all my other priorities fall into place.” After she

responded, she wondered if that had cost her the job. Evidently not, because she was hired.

But now, Laura was revisiting her highest priority she had so bravely shared three years earlier. As she painfully worked through her personal reality check, she came to the conclusion that in spite of her best efforts and desire to do “it all” she had allowed that first priority to slide. It wasn’t intentional. In fact, she had not recognized the gradual shifting of the order until that very moment of introspection.

Now came the hard part! How could she get her priorities back in proper order? Would she have to do away with some of her obligations? They were all actually “good things.”

What advice would you share with Laura?

See Last Page for More on Maestro™ and Other Work Issues

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In Depth

As you prepare for this study, complete the following:

SCRIPTURE PATH

Ephesians 5:15 – 17

Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 14

List the times in the past week that you've read your Bible.

List the times this past week you've read a newspaper or other periodical.

List the times this past week you've read a book.

List the times this week you've spoken with or listened to God in prayer.

List the times this week you've talked to others about God.

If you're a parent, list the times you've spoken to your children about God.

During this past week, how many meaningful conversations did you have with your spouse, family members and close friends?

What conclusions do you draw from your answers above?



Studies show us that the more educated we are, and the more successful we are, the less likely we are to know God's Word. Why do you think that's true?

Remembering our study of the Israelites, what's the problem with being unfamiliar with God's Word?

Question to Consider:

List some of the things and people that place demands on your time.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Why do you surrender it to them?

- _____
- _____

Read Ephesians 5:15 – 17. In regards to these verses, rate on a scale of 1 – 10 “how you live” in reference to:

- a. Keeping the connection with God? _____ Why did you give yourself that rating?
- b. Keeping connection with family? _____ Why did you give yourself that rating?



In verse 16, “making the most of every opportunity” represents a marketing term which meant “to buy out something completely” at a good time or price. In other words, believers are to take advantage of every spiritual opportunity. What are some specific ways you could “make the most of every opportunity” and increase your rating in:

- a. Connecting better with God?

- b. Connecting better with family?

Now read Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 14. What do you think Solomon wants us to hear in this passage?

“Ecclesiastes points out two important lessons from this understanding of time. First, there is a proper time for every event and our purpose is to discover our role—doing the right thing at the right time brings incredible fulfillment. Second, we are wired to want to see the whole as evidenced in art, science, theology, etc. However, when we cut ourselves off from God we are left to journey from day to day with little clear direction as we cannot see the whole on our own. To connect back into the big picture we need to ask, ‘Lord, what would you have me do now? I know my life has an eternal purpose, and I desire to understand how all things work together for good.’”

— Darryl Shoemaker, Ph.D, *The Work Schedule*



Question to Consider:

In reviewing your connection with God and family/close friends (or lack thereof) what do you think the Lord would have you do now?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Common Sense and Eternal Principles

- ◆ A hectic pace is the enemy of faithfulness.
- ◆ Activity does not equal value.
- ◆ It is not just the quality of time we spend on things that matter; quantity counts, too.

What's Breaking your Rhythm at Work?



- ▶ **We all have a Work Rhythm unique to each of us**, but In our busy work lives, our rhythm with God can be overpowered or compromised by issues common to us all. Economic instability, interpersonal conflict, temptation, pride all have a way of rendering us out of tune.

Visit www.WorkLife.org for more on Maestro WorkLife Coaching, and pinpoint your own rhythm breakers.

Explore Maestro™ today!



Maestro™ is a self-directed, web-based coaching system that helps you target and overcome issues breaking your rhythm—no matter what job faces you Monday morning. Maestro™ Includes:

- ▶ A Work Issues Assessment
- ▶ Weekly email-based Maestro™ Coaching
- ▶ Maestro Truth Modules for in depth study.
- ▶ Maestro Tuning Tools for dealing with specific work challenges.



▶ The Top 30 WorkLife Issues

Check out these top WorkLife Issues!

Go to WorkLife.org to learn more.

CLARITY	Do I understand why God created work in the first place?
	Do I relate to God through my work?
	Do I connect eternal significance to my actual work?
	Do I simultaneously serve God and my earthly boss, making sure I don't "turn off" my spiritual life at work?
	Do I narrow my focus each day by setting clear limits and boundaries on my ambitions, so that work doesn't take over my life?
CALLING	Are my God-given talents, passions and temperament aligned to my present job?
	Do I see my work calling as really serving society and God?
	Is my work ethic free from compulsions such as: meaningless goals, accumulating temporary success, and a desire to please everyone?
	Do I learn from detours, zig-zags, false starts, and dead ends in my job to eliminate self-destructive patterns of behavior?
BALANCE	Do I honor my earthly employer with competency and integrity in order to accomplish God's purpose?
	Do I manage stress and discouragement by practicing the principle of rest and recreation?
	Do I manage my time without being distracted by unfocused impulses or becoming a slave to my schedule?
	Am I keeping a connection with God and my family in the midst of my hectic work life?
INFLUENCE	Do I manage all my resources (i.e., time, energy, talent, money) in a way that reflects God's perspective?
	Do I avoid the pitfalls of compensation and position discontentment to maximize my impact for Christ?
	Do I earn the respect of my coworkers in a way that blends a gracious spirit, keen intellect, courageous heart, and cultural sensitivity?
	Do I look for natural opportunities to talk about God that are appropriate to my workplace?
	Do I effectively answer the tough questions coworkers ask me about God, life, and faith?
SKILLS	Do I feel prepared to present the gospel message in language that is clear, succinct, and jargon-free, yet faithful to the Scriptures?
	Can I clearly explain the benefits of a relationship with Jesus to those at work?
	Do I regularly grow my practical work skills in order to serve my employer and God?
	Am I seeking and hearing God when making work decisions?
RELATIONSHIP	Do I operate with virtues that honor God (i.e. fairness, graciousness, and compassion)?
	Do I keep promises and tell the truth at work when subtle pressure is used to encourage hype, false appearance, white lies and spin?
	Am I willing to go against the grain at work when biblical values are at stake?
	Do I effectively deal with a difficult boss, serve an unreasonable client, or cooperate with a cynical coworker?
	Do I resolve conflict involving office politics, gossip, slander, favoritism, and unfounded criticism?
	Do I effectively deal with lust at work, including everything from travel temptations to office affairs, from risqué jokes to sexual harassment?
	Do I protect and help the weakest members of my workplace and society in a "survival of the fittest" world?
Do I seek out and connect with fellow believers at work for support, encouragement and accountability?	