

This Truth Module addresses the workplace issue of:

Do I seek out and connect with fellow believers at work for support, encouragement, and accountability?



Spurring On One Another



It actually snuck up on them before they realized it.

Five church members in the same office complex discovered they were all Christians, and decided to meet for lunch at the local diner—booth #4. Initial discussions revolved mostly around family, politics and sports, with only an occasional touch on something from church.

Several weeks into the gatherings, Trey mentioned the sermon from the previous Sunday had really shaken the foundations of his thinking. The topic was “living with integrity.” Trey felt he led a pretty good life—at home, in the neighborhood, coaching baseball, and even at church. The sticking point had been one of the final questions posed by the pastor: “Do the folks you work with see you as a person of integrity, and do they recognize Christ’s impact on you?” Trey awkwardly admitted to the group his answer to that question would have to be “no.”

After a few moments of uncomfortable silence, Angela acknowledged that she, too, had the same reaction to the

question, but had just tried to “put it out of my mind.” Before long, the entire group—a dentist, a medical transcriptionist, a restaurant owner, a supervisor and a landscaper—admitted they experienced similar responses.

The five found the discussion that followed these admissions so engaging, they decided God brought them together for more than idle chatter and friendship. It took several more weeks of sorting and conversation before they settled on a structure, but eventually the group became a healthy midweek spiritual oasis for all of them. They committed to pray for each other, and to seek God’s guidance on how to change their answers to the question of their integrity at work.

Every one of them was surprised by the sense of relief they found when they realized they were not alone in this struggle. Their private guilt was now out in the open and it made it easier for them to open up about specific challenges at work. Even more important, they found it easier

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and easier to ask the others for help. They added an element of accountability to the mix, too, each holding the other accountable for efforts to apply their faith to their work situations. Their other big surprise was the discovery of how relevant the Bible was to the situations they faced; something none of them believed before

they started working on their issues as a “spiritual team.”

Months later, sitting in “their” booth in the back right-hand corner of the diner, they marveled at the changes taking place. Who would have imagined the “therapy session” at booth #4 would have had such an impact?

Introduction

How many times have we fallen into the cultural trap of trying to be a “self-made person”? We are told, in dozens of ways, if we are to be “successful” we have to handle everything ourselves.

SCRIPTURE PATH

Hebrews 3:12 – 13

Hebrews 10:23 – 25

Proverbs 27:17

Philippians 3:17

While most of us know we do have to put forth individual effort to be effective and successful, the truth is that is only part of the equation. What happens when we fail? If we depend solely on ourselves and then fall short, what is the result?

In truth, most of us find ourselves wanting help and support, especially in our Christian walk. However, wanting that assistance, and actually finding it, are sometimes light years away from each other. That’s because asking for help requires we admit we are flawed and need help; something many of us find very hard to do.

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Scripture is full of words of instruction in this area. We are told as members of God’s family we need to interact with and support each other—finding and providing encouragement, transparency, and trust.

In Depth

Read Hebrews 3:12 – 13. Although you may not have done it intentionally, can you identify some areas in your life, including your work, which have caused you to have an “unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God”? (In other words, where you have taken control and tried to handle it solely on your own.)



What were some of the consequences and outcomes?

Verse 13 instructs us to “encourage one another daily.” The word “encourage” means to comfort, strengthen, instruct or teach. What are some reasons we as believers may not be in a position to do that?

What steps can you take to make yourself more familiar with Scripture? What steps can you take to link yourself up with someone who is already familiar with Scripture?

Question to Consider:

Can you think of avenues you presently have to help you find fellow believers you can connect with in this way?

Read Hebrews 10:23 – 25. Verse 24 calls for us to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” The word “spur” means to provoke or incite, terms that normally bring a negative connotation such as causing a riot. However, here we are urged to provoke others toward love and good deeds. What does this directive say to you in your personal life?



It's interesting to note here that, as believers, we are encouraged to not give up meeting together "as some are in the habit of doing." What are some reasons working believers get into the habit of not meeting together with other believers? Are there some habits that can ensnare you in this area? How can you overcome them?

Among the many beauties of God's relationship with us is that it is not one-dimensional, and it's not "one-size-fits-all," in that if we ascribe to God's plan and His guidance here, we will not only be able to receive support, but also give support to others in the same process. How does the promise in verse 23 help you in this endeavor?

Read Proverbs 27:17. The word "sharpens" means to be sharp or keen. Both verses in Hebrews (above) speak to fellow believers—highlighting the importance of support and accountability. Why do you think this type of relationship is crucial for the working believer?

Question to Ponder:

*Do you have any fellow believers where you find support?
If not, who are some friends/coworkers who may be prime candidates
for such a relationship?*

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Read Philippians 3:17. This verse shows the importance of having and being spiritual role models. Do you have spiritual role models in your life? What about in your work life? Would you see yourself as one to others? If not, what can you do to begin working toward that goal?

Common Sense and Eternal Principles

- ◆ Our culture is full of sinful influences which are constantly trying to pull us away from God. In our work, this often unrecognized pull comes from society's self-centered emphasis.
- ◆ God calls on us to encourage and spur each other daily—highlighting the importance of connection with other Christians in this daily walk.
- ◆ Meeting together with other believers is crucial for fellowship and growth in our Christian walk. While relationships with all co-workers are important, we need to also acknowledge the deep need for connection with other believers.
- ◆ As believers in the workplace, we are to be role models—in every realm, including being the best workers we can be.

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?	