

Godspace 9-5 | 10 Sept, 2017



WEEK 1: The Components WEEK 2: Dilemmas & Innovations WEEK 3: Integration

A question from last week's sheet was: ***There are many ways of outworking our faith in our workplace - it comes into everything. Yet Christians often think just of workplace evangelism or of 'being good' at work. What are some of the other ways?*** This week we expand on that and think particularly about Dilemmas and Innovations in our 9-5. A great outcome from this discussion would be sharing of specific good ideas (Innovations) on how you can live and act christianly in your 9-5.

Connecting:

1. In threes or as a whole group:
 - a) What has been the big issue for you in your 9-5 in the last week, and how has your relationship with God been impacted by it?
2. It's commonly accepted that you need a 'calling' from God to be a pastor or missionary. Pastors & missionaries can usually describe their calling, referring to certain scriptures, revelatory moments and the confirmation of others. Do you feel called by God, to your present 9-5? If so, how did that sense of call come about for you?

Thinking / Feeling:

3. Steve mentioned seven ways you can live out your faith, during your 9-5. It's good to work on all seven of these as far as possible. But any one of them, done with intention, could transform your 9-5, and point people to Christ. The seven areas were:

- i. Positive Spiritual Conversations (1 Pet 3:15, Phil 1:27)
- ii. Christ-like Conduct (1 John 2:5-6, Col 1:10)
- iii. Acts of Grace (Ps 41:1-3, Ps 21:13)
- iv. Ethical Decision Making (Col 3:23-24, Matt 22:21)
- v. Encouragement & Care (Gal 6:2)
- vi. Appropriate Rest (Gen 2:2, 2 Thess 3:11-12)
- vii. Practicing God's Presence (Ps 1:1-3, 1 Thess 5:16-18)

- Which of these makes, or could make, the biggest impact for Christ, in your 9-5? How so? Can you share an example?
- What is one item from this list that you'd like to be more intentional about?
- Can you think of any further points that could be added to the seven on this list?

4. Dilemmas:

- Here are some examples of 9-5 christian dilemmas in the field of Secondary School Education:
 - ◆ What place does our Christian faith have in a secular classroom? Or in a diverse classroom where multiple faiths are represented?
 - ◆ What ways can we respond to the pervasive Humanism that is everywhere in education?
 - ◆ What does Christian educational leadership look like? Especially when you have to deal with conflict?
 - ◆ Is there a Christian response to results driven educational approaches?
 - ◆ What happens when your values/personal philosophy of education don't align with those of your school?
- ***What are some equivalent dilemmas in your 9-5?***

5. Innovations:

- Here are some examples of christian innovations from the Entertainment, Sports & Sales industries:
 - ◆ A video shop owner becomes a Christian. He ditches his Adult video section and offers customers the chance to pay 50 cents extra per video and the money will go to supporting a World Vision child. Customers love it. There are 12 pictures of World Vision children that you see when you come into his store; these are financially supported by his customers.
 - ◆ Kevin is a sports nut. But instead of pursuing his own sporting career, God led him to found 'Ignite Sport' where he trains sport-focused Christians in 'Making Sport Your Mission'. Specifically he trains them to be sports coaches who know how to 'coach the heart'. He says coaching the heart is the missing link in NZ sports coaching. His christian sports coaches have been involved across the board from lower decile secondary schools all the way to Olympic level. They are reaching hundreds of sports people, and have countless opportunities to talk about faith in God.
 - ◆ What's the opposite of getting ripped off? Steve & Jo bought a car from a second hand car dealer, who charged them less than what he had quoted! This seems unheard of in the shady arena of second hand car sales! The car dealer was the author of the Christian book, 'Where is God on Monday'!
- ***What are some innovations you have seen, or could imagine, in the area of your 9-5? If Jesus started doing your job, how might he do it?***

Praying:

In twos or threes, ask each other what you'd like prayer for? Include things like

- Intentional work this week on one of the seven areas from question 3
- Increased awareness of all the possible ways we can live out our faith in our workplaces
- Wisdom for this week's 9-5 dilemmas
- Inspiration for ways we could rethink our job from a Jesus perspective with creative innovations!