



Integrating faith & everyday life

Discovering ways to bring life and faith together, to help you see God in everything you do

REVIEW

Recap on your experience of the challenge. Ask the following questions:

How did it go? Was it helpful?

If you weren't able to try the challenge, explore the question:

Where and how did you experience God last week?

Read the passage several times through, read it slowly, use your imagination to picture the scene and soak it up. As you read, look out for one or two points that really impact you.

We call these 'shockers' and 'blockers'. Shockers - something from the text that stands out or surprises you. Blockers - something that raises questions or you find hard to understand.

READ

† Luke 13.10-17

Healing a woman on the Sabbath

¹⁰ One Sabbath, Jesus was teaching in a Jewish meeting place, ¹¹ and a woman was there who had been crippled by an evil spirit for eighteen years. She was completely bent over and could not straighten up. ¹² When Jesus saw the woman, he called her over and said, "You are now well." ¹³ He placed his hands on her, and at once she stood up straight and praised God.

¹⁴ The man in charge of the meeting place was angry because Jesus had healed someone on the Sabbath. So he said to the people, "Each week has six days when we can work. Come and be healed on one of those days, but not on the Sabbath."

¹⁵ The Lord replied, "Are you trying to fool someone? Won't any one of you untie your ox or donkey and lead it out to drink on a Sabbath?" ¹⁶ This woman belongs to the family of Abraham, but Satan has kept her bound for eighteen years. Isn't it right to set her free on the Sabbath?" ¹⁷ Jesus' words made his enemies ashamed. But everyone else in the crowd was happy about the wonderful things he was doing.

Contemporary English Verse - CEV

'We cannot retreat from the "secular" world in the hopes of finding God elsewhere. Indeed, the very presence of God is manifest in the smallest, most mundane of daily activities.'

Richard J. Foster *Streams of Living Water*

REFLECT

Take time to discuss what you've read and particularly the points that impacted you. Share your thoughts and listen carefully to one another. Use the questions to help you reflect.

Setting the scene:

▶ The Sabbath began at sundown on Friday and ended at sundown on Saturday. It was a weekly day of rest and worship. A group called the Pharisees created numerous laws detailing what could and couldn't be done on the Sabbath. This turned it into a burden for the Jewish community, rather than the blessing God intended it to be.

- ▶ In this passage, Jesus is the guest speaker in the synagogue, preaching on a potentially controversial topic. During his talk, he notices a woman with a disability. He heals her, resulting in outrage amongst the Pharisees. Jesus is 'working' by healing on the Sabbath! It's a massive challenge to their world view as Jesus dissolves the division between sacred (religious) and secular (not religious).
- ▶ The Pharisees' Sabbath laws included a clause allowing animals to be cared for. After Jesus heals the woman, he uses an illustration about their treatment of oxen and donkeys

to expose the hypocrisy. How could they care for animals on the Sabbath but not people?

- ▶ This is the last time Jesus is recorded as having spoken or even having been in a synagogue.
- ▶ What are the 'shockers' and 'blockers' for you in this passage?
- ▶ Do you think that God is interested in every part of our lives – or only the 'religious' parts?
- ▶ How can we begin to consider all of our work as a 'vocation' or 'calling from God' and not only as employment?

RESPOND

As you have read and reflected on the passage, it's now time to consider how to respond.

Whole lyfe challenge: As a group, create a challenge that will help you increase the connection between God and all of your life this week.

Challenge ideas: If you struggle to come up with your own challenge then why not try one of the following...

01 Count your blessings

This week, begin to write/type a list of all the things you're grateful to God for. Add to the list every day and include all areas of your life - family, work, sport, food, sleep etc. You may like to do this as a family, adding to the list each time you eat together. Jesus showed us that everything is spiritual.

02 Bless your home

It's a great practise to walk through you home and ask for God's blessing on each room. You probably spend the majority of your time there, even if it's whilst sleeping, so it makes sense to invite God in.

03 That's entertainment

It can be easy to write off music as empty entertainment. Try spending some time this week listening attentively and looking out for deeper meanings. Many songs communicate the artist's deep longings and the search for love, life and even God -whether they're explicitly 'Christian' or not. In the car, the shops, at home – wherever, pay attention to

the music that you hear. Be open to the possibility that God may want to communicate this way to you.

04 Going Deeper

God @ Work - see following page.

Don't Forget

1. To record your experience of the challenge so that you can accurately share it with your lyfe group when you next meet. You might like to text/tweet each other throughout the experience!
2. Consider posting your created challenge on the lyfe facebook site for others to view.

More resources on 'Whole Lyfe'

- Listen to video interview with Mark Greene and Dallas Willard
- Read articles on Work & Family and Interview with Joe Davis
- Read 'lyfe story' biographies on GK Chesterton and Brother Lawrence
- Recommended Reading 'Working It Out – God, you and the work you do' by Mark Greene & Ian Coffey

GOING DEEPER GOD@WORK

Pick one day this week where you choose to consciously honour God and invite him into every part of your day. Think about your commute/drive/walk/train/bus ride in the morning, the conversations you have, how you can secretly serve (be the one to wash up the mug collection in the kitchen). Maybe send someone an encouraging email and ask God for wisdom in challenging interactions or decisions. Try to do your work as though Jesus was doing it himself in your place. Try and take a break over lunch to get outside and enjoy his creation. It might be good at the end of day to stop and reflect. Make some notes about things you have learnt today.