



2018-2019 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 7

# Series Overview and Guides

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2019

## Objective

*what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study*

We joyfully work at fulfilling our mandates.

### STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.'"

—Genesis 1:28 CSB

"Jesus came near and said to them, 'All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

—Matthew 28:18-20 CSB

"We [must] see the need to emphasize whole-life discipleship...and the fruit of what happens when marketplace Christians actually capture the understanding of living their work as mission, as neighbor love."

—Amy Sherman  
*Lecture at Oikonomia Network 2016  
retreat*



**Frisco Bible Church**  
*a redeemed community*

## Premise

*why we are studying this*

Christians have always struggled with our relationship to society – a struggle that seems to be intensifying. Christian contribution to the general welfare is keenly needed, yet churches are more skittish than ever about exercising public influence. Work offers a promising path forward. Economic work makes civilizations run, and most Christ-followers spend most of our lives working outside of churches. Integrating faith with the economic aspects of life, Christians can live out Jesus' calling to full-time discipleship. Further, we position ourselves to be used of God to make a transformative impact on civilizations.

### STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"But Jesus replied, 'My Father is always working, and so am I.'"

—John 5:17 CSB

"Let your work be seen by your servants, and your splendor by their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands— establish the work of our hands!"

—Psalm 90:16-17 CSB

"It has only been five years since our church last studied how our work matters to God. However, there are two main reasons we need this new excursion: 1) There is a great deal of exciting new development in the theology of work. We should benefit from that, learning how God's work empowers and inspires ours. 2) We spend most each day working, which may explain why the topic is so extensive in scripture. Thus, it behooves us to continue to grow in godly labor."

—Wayne Braudrick

## Theme

*what the study is about*

Whatever our occupation and no matter our employment status, God has invited His people to join Him in work. In our work, we should flourish as people and spread blessings to others. We should create value, produce, act responsibly, worship, and build to last.

### STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"We recall, in the presence of our God and Father, your work produced by faith, your labor motivated by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

—1 Thessalonians 1:3 CSB

"Arise and work, and may the LORD be with you." (David calling for work to begin on the temple)

—1 Chronicles 22:16 NASB

"It is certainly the task of the Christian...to train in and exemplify both the foundational traits of the fruit of the Spirit and the more specific traits required in the economic domain – industriousness, self-control, moderation, and responsibility for oneself and others. That is the responsibility and posture of love...We should put to rest once and for all the idea that these traits are 'private' and that public economic flourishing is independent of them. Public well-being and prosperity essentially depend upon them [being] properly understood and implemented."

—Dallas Willard  
*Lecture at Oikonomia Network  
2013retreat*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS

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## PERMISSION

You are welcome to copy and distribute this study guide for your personal or group study.

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ANNUAL THEME 2018-2019

BUILD TO LAST

SCRIPTURE READING

Selected Scriptures

KEY IDEAS

THEME

In order to glorify God with our best, we must commit to flourishing in our vocations. Whether home or office, factory or school, God's people are intended to excel in what we do. Though the "thorns & thistles" of mankind's fall liberally infest the ground, we can still prosper by God's grace. Our work can truly be a part in building lasting homes, businesses, churches, and communities if we develop integrity, trust, and love.

OBJECTIVE

We commit to flourish.

WORTHY

"Have you considered the meaning of that word 'worthy'? Weigh it well...

I had rather you should be worthy possessors of one thousand pounds honestly acquired by your own labor and industry, than of ten millions by banks and tricks.

I had rather you should be worthy makers of brooms and baskets than unworthy presidents of the United States procured by intrigue, factious slander and corruption."

—John Adams  
*Letter to his grandson John Smith*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we commit to flourish by God's grace and for His glory. Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

## Session 1: Flourishing

1. Discuss the three requirements for flourishing listed below. Read the scriptures referenced for further insight.
  - Integrity – Matthew 5:37, 1 Corinthians 4:1-2
  - Valuing the eternal – Matthew 13:44
  - Influencing the temporal – Matthew 13:33
2. Consider each of those three requirements for flourishing in the context of home, work, church, and community.
  - In which of these do you excel? Discuss the reasons why.
  - With which of these do you struggle? Discuss the reasons why.
  - What can we do to excel more at each of these, regardless of the struggle or opposition?
3. Read Isaiah 42:8 and Colossians 3:17. How can we more faithfully live out this principle of doing all for God's glory and not for our own?
  - What are the key principles about work found in these passages?
  - What are some ways we can live out these principles in our daily lives?





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Selected Scriptures

KEY IDEAS

THEME

One hears lots of talk these days indicating that some people think production of anything – food, wealth, value, etc. – is automatically greedy. The Bible paints a very different picture. Scripture shows that greed is heinous and destructive while productivity is positive. Producing and coveting are in fact diametrically opposed to each other. In fact, economic productivity is the most valid means this fallen world allows for alleviating poverty.

OBJECTIVE

We commit to produce.

WHAT IS YOUR MOTIVATION?

“And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’” But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

—Luke 12:19-21 ESV

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we commit to produce by God’s grace and for His glory. Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

## Session 2: Producing

1. Read Luke 12:15-21.
  - What wrong motivation for hard work is presented in this parable?
  - What is the appropriate response to the point of this parable?
  
2. Read Proverbs 28:19-22 and 12:11.
  - What does it mean to “chase fantasies”?
  - How should we respond to the teachings in Proverbs about productivity? (also see Proverbs 10:4-5 and 24:30-34)
  
3. Consider experiences you have had in the workplace.
  - How would you define “productive” work in contrast to “busy” work?
  - How does Colossians 3:23 help to clarify the difference between the two?





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SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 31:31

KEY IDEAS

**THEME**

Faith, hope, and love aren't merely personal spiritual blessings. They motivate Christians to create economic value. And value creation is the only true measure of economic success. Freedom and virtue powerfully catalyze value creation, and those who create value should be rewarded and recognized.

**OBJECTIVE**

We create value and appreciate it in others.

**THE VALIANT WOMAN**

"A remarkable connection between the book of Proverbs and the world of work occurs at the end of the book. Lady Wisdom reappears (31:10-31) as a living, woman, termed 'the virtuous woman.'

But the text focuses on the woman's work as an entrepreneur with a cottage industry and its servants/workers to manage. The book of Proverbs is summarized, then, in a poem praising a woman who is the wise manager of diverse enterprises ranging from weaving to wine making to trade in the market."

—Theology of Work Project  
*The Valiant Woman (Proverbs 31)*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we exemplify a healthy work ethic, create value, and glorify God for all.

## Session 3: Creating Value

1. Consider how a Christian's motivation for work is different from the world's.
  - How is thinking of a job as the source of your identity contrary to a biblical worldview? See Isaiah 42:8.
  - How is focusing on wealth as the motivation for our work contrary to a biblical worldview? See Isaiah 2:7-8 and Micah 5:10-13.
  - Read Matthew 25:14-27, the parable of the talents. What is the principle of this parable, and how should we apply it as a biblical work ethic?
2. What is the role of a Christian's faith, love, and hope in a healthy work ethic? See 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3.
  - How did Paul teach these principles to the Thessalonians? See 1 Thess. 2:9-12.
  - Have you had an example of such a healthy work ethic in your life? Describe the impact on you.
3. Read Proverbs 10:21 and Galatians 5:13-14.
  - How can Christians make a positive difference at home, at work, and in their community?
  - Has someone made such a difference in one of these areas of your life? Explain what happened.
4. What are some ways we can show appreciation to people who create value which positively impacts those around them? Share some examples of things you have seen or done.





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Selected Scriptures

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Jesus is the Prophet, Judge, King, and Priest. Because of what He does in those roles, His people are inspired to act responsibly under His authority.

OBJECTIVE

We act responsibly.

APPRENTICESHIP TO JESUS

"In the New Testament era, the calling to manifest our faith in public life is only intensified by the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Our mission is not to make converts of every nation, but to make disciples (Matthew 28:19). The difference between a superficial 'convert' and a fully-formed 'disciple' is the transformation of daily life through apprenticeship to Jesus.

Teaching people to live in a way that serves the common good is as central to the Great Commission as it is to the Great Commandment."

—Scott Rae, Daryl Bock, et al.  
*Economic Wisdom Project*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we endure in acting responsibly under the grace of Jesus as prophet, judge, king, and priest.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests

## Session 4: Acting Responsibly

1. Because Jesus is the Prophet, Judge, King, and Priest, we are called to act responsibly under His authority. First and foremost, a prophet cared for the people.
  - Read Isaiah 58:6-7 and 12. Discuss the various ways of caring for people mentioned in these verses.
  - How can we better care for the people in our lives (family, church, community)?
  - Read James 1:27. Why is personal holiness just as important as caring for others?
2. Jesus is the Judge, and we are to maturely discern. Read Hebrews 5:11-14.
  - In these verses, what is it that we are to maturely discern? And what is our means of doing so?
  - How consistently are you growing in your understanding of God's Word?
  - Are you, or have you considered, teaching the Bible to others? What are some opportunities to do so?
3. Jesus is the King, and we are to care for His kingdom.
  - How are we to care for one another as a family of believers? See 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12.
  - How are we to live in our community? See 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 and 1 Peter 2:13-17.
  - What is our ultimate reality? See Philippians 3:20-21.
4. Jesus is the Priest, and we are to proclaim His salvation.
  - Read and discuss Hebrews 4:14-16. How and when are we to approach His "throne of grace"?
  - Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 4:1-4. What is our ministry, and what can we expect from some as a response?
5. Read Hebrews 4:14 and 2 Corinthians 4:1. What attitude is expressed in these excerpts?





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BUILD TO LAST

SCRIPTURE READING

Nehemiah 2

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Inspired and empowered by God, His people are called to collectively labor. Despite the opposition and pitfalls of a fallen world, they can build to last.

OBJECTIVE

We keep building to last.

OUR MISSION

We are a redeemed community doing the Great Commission by the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God.

SOURCE OF STABILITY

The only truly reliable source of stability is a strong inner core and the willingness to change and adapt everything except that core.

—Jim Collins & Jerry Porras  
*Built to Last: Successful Habits of Visionary Companies*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we remain steadfast in community.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

## Session 5: Building to Last – 25 Years of Frisco Bible Church

1. Read Nehemiah 2:17-20. What three things are present when God’s people begin building to last?
  - Why is it important we understand this as a description of a biblical church?
  - Why do some churches decide to change God’s message as society changes?
  - In what ways can a church remain biblically strong, yet culturally engaged, as society continues to change?
3. Read Nehemiah 8:9-12. The leaders care for and help direct God’s people.
  - Church membership is a mutual commitment between the elders and staff, and the members. Why is this mutual commitment important?
  - Why is it important to engage in fellowship within the local church? What are some additional Bible passages that speak to this issue?
  - In what ways has a pastor or an elder had an impact on your life?
4. When you think about Frisco Bible Church (or your local church home), what do you celebrate?

