

Grace Inspires Entrepreneurship

GOALS

The point of every session is a main idea with the goal of what we want to walk away from the discussion with—knowing, feeling and doing.

Main Idea: Biblical entrepreneurship begins and ends with God at the center of every initiative.

Head Change: To understand that godly entrepreneurship is not about glorying in our abilities but about glorifying God through it.

Heart Change: To remain focused on Christ and His ultimate purpose when using our talents—not comparing ourselves with those who may be more or less gifted than us.

Life Change: To be intentional about using our skills, resources and abilities to advance God's Kingdom on earth.

OPEN

What is a talent that you have always wanted to possess? Do you have any funny or embarrassing memories about trying your hand at it? Or perhaps, you've had a subject that you struggled with at school? How did you feel when a peer seemed to effortlessly 'get it' and you failed? How do you look back on your struggle today?

Often, we worry about what we do not have. We constantly compare ourselves to those we perceive as being more talented, skilled, smart or resourceful. However, the truth is that God does not hold us accountable for what He did not give us. Instead, He asks us to account for what He has entrusted to us.

In this session, Anand Mahadevan drives home the fact that entrepreneurship is about blooming where you're planted—as a homemaker, professional, artist, parent or student. Biblical entrepreneurship is about being faithful, smart, innovative, diligent and passionate in using your skills, talents and resources for the greater good of people and God's glory.

As you watch, write down how Anand Mahadevan answers these questions.

What are five points about biblical entrepreneurship from this parable?

What three things are required for entrepreneurs to prosper?

How do I know when God has activated a call on my life?

How can we worship God through our labour?

WATCH

SESSION 2: *Grace Inspires Entrepreneurship* (12 minutes)

REVIEW

Anand points out that God's idea of biblical entrepreneurship can be quite different from the way popular culture perceives it. What is the motivating factor for entrepreneurship, God's way? How do you think this differs from the world's way?

Entrepreneurship is God's idea and calling. This essentially means that we are only stewards of all that we possess. What are some responsibilities, possessions or resources that God has entrusted into your care? How are you using it for His glory? What personal and professional modifications would you need to make in order to glorify God through your talents?

Anand points out that we need creativity, competency and capital to accomplish God's vision. Which area(s) do you find yourself lacking in? What are some practical steps you can take to build yourself in those areas? What is God teaching you through the areas of your weakness?

Anand notes that sometimes even though we may have all that is required for entrepreneurship, we may find ourselves unable to move ahead because it is not yet God's timing. Share about a time when things moved ahead smoothly because of God's timing, or about a time when your best efforts came to nothing because God wanted you to wait.

What are some important lessons that God taught you through a period of waiting? How did these lessons prepare you for the road ahead?

Anand reminds us that we should seek to be commended by God rather than men. What are some ways in which we tend to seek the approval of others? What does this say about our spiritual health? What steps do you take to remind yourself to work for God and not for men?

Anand notes that when God's glory is the motive behind our creativity and labour, all the ensuing activities become an act of worship. In what way are you using your skills, talents or resources to worship God?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Skim through Genesis 1–2:3, 15. When God created the heavens, the earth and mankind, He called His creation ‘good’. What does this tell you about how God views work?

Man was the pinnacle of God’s creation. In Genesis 2:15, God assigns man with authority over the earth and its creatures. How are you living out this responsibility in your daily life?

Skim through Genesis 11. The people of Babylon wanted to build a tower to make a name for themselves. They feared that if they did not, they would be scattered. The end result was quite unexpected! In what way are you tempted to make a name for yourself? How can you respond when faced with the temptation to ‘perform’ or outdo others?

Why do you think God was displeased by their effort? What lesson(s) do we learn from this account and God’s subsequent judgment?

What are three biblical principles of work and creativity that you learn from the account of creation in Genesis 1 and 2 and the tower of Babel in Genesis 11? How will you apply it to your life? ?

Skim through Exodus 31: 1–5, 36: 1–5, 37:1–9. In Exodus 31, we are introduced to a character called Bezalel. Bezalel played a key role in putting together the Tabernacle of the Lord, which would in the days to come, represent God’s Presence to the Israelites. This was a holy commission and Bezalel did not take it lightly.

Read Exodus 31:1-5. Who was Bezalel and what was his divine commission?

From the references in Exodus 36 and 39, how do you think that creativity, competency and capital came together to help Bezalel accomplish his responsibility?

What are some notable qualities of Bezalel that you would like to emulate?

Read 1 Corinthians 4:7, 2 Corinthians 12: 1–10. What is Paul’s admonishment to those who take pride in their

abilities/resources? How would taking this thought to heart change the way you approach your tasks and responsibilities?

Paul concludes that when we are weak, then we are strong. In your own words, how would you explain this passage? Can you share about a time when God's strength came through more strongly through your weakness?

Skim through 1 Samuel 13: 5–15 and 1 Samuel 28:3–20, 2 Samuel 11:1–25. In these chapters, we find marked differences in how two of Israel's earliest kings responded to God and their own weaknesses. Where rebuke leads David to repentance, it drives Saul further away from God.

From these verses, what is Saul's response to his failings and weaknesses? How do you think that a different response could have led to a different outcome?

In what ways are you tempted to take the help of other people rather than God when faced with a perplexing situation?

How does David respond to God's correction through the consequences that he faces? Reflect on a time when you were corrected—what was your response? Do you think you could have responded differently?

Popular culture encourages us to push ourselves forward, have more drive, more initiative, more ambition, and eventually become more successful. However, God only calls us to be faithful. Success comes from Him in His time and in His way.

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

MEDITATE: How do you view ‘success?’ Ask God to reveal in what ways you may be seeking to make a name for yourself through your work/talent. Ask Him to show you how you can glorify Him instead.

ACT: What is that one thing that God has been asking you to do but you’ve been putting off? What steps will you take in the coming weeks to get it done?

MEMORIZE: Commit 2 Corinthians 12:9–10 to memory, reading it aloud to yourself every day through the week. How will you apply these verses to your life?
