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## REDEEMING THE GRIND

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### INTRODUCTION

When we do the math on where we spend our days, the numbers prove what a lot of us feel by the time Friday rolls around – work is a significant part of how we spend our time. Often we see work as a means to an end: we work to live. But, in this series we've learned work is a gift we were created to take part in! Jesus wants to redeem our work week from a constant replay of the average daily grind and restore it to the incredible tool He made it to be. This week, we consider ways knowing Jesus can make our 40+ hours draw people to Him for His glory and redemptive work.

### DISCUSSION

1. Share a little about what you do for work and how you feel about the job you have. Is the idea that work is a tool for God to bless you and others a new thought to you?
2. In what ways have you considered this idea before, and in what ways is it making you think differently about your work?
3. What's difficult about seeing your job as a tool for God to move in your workplace?
4. Think of how your work is connected to the other people at your workplace and beyond. How might building both integrity *and* strategy matter in both the personal and professional lives of those around you?

### THINK ABOUT IT

Many times, work is something we find ourselves trying to power through. The best part about Thursday? It's almost the weekend. Wednesday? Halfway through the week. Monday? ..... you get the point. But what if that's not all work has to be? What if the kingdom God's building for us in heaven could actually come to earth through us and be in the midst of the daily grind? God's redeeming work isn't limited to life off the clock. God cares deeply about who we are and, therefore, cares deeply about the work we do. The time spent at the office, in the field or wherever we find ourselves in the midst of our work week is a strategic and unique gift that allows us participate in God's ministry of reconciliation. As a "hands-on" kind of savior, Jesus wants to work alongside us as He meets us in even the most menial and frustrating tasks. No matter what your job is, we as followers of Christ have the chance to use our work for God's glory and both our and our neighbor's growth.

### DO SOMETHING

1. Start simple: Make a short list of ways you will care for the people around your work place, reminding them they're loved and valued by Jesus.
2. What are your areas of influence? Are you a leader who can encourage a caring community within your work place? Are you in a great position to give grace and show patience like Jesus? Maybe your job gives you unique insight to see and stop injustice before it happens. Start praying for wisdom and discernment in identifying where Jesus is inviting you to build His Kingdom through your work. Then ask for courage to see an opportunity to use it!
3. Be willing to be uncomfortable and ask God to reveal pieces of your heart that have grown hard toward others at work. Because our whole world is broken by sin, it can be easy to unintentionally show partiality toward a certain group, to accidentally take advantage of another, or to hold onto bitterness from the past. If nothing comes to mind, ask a trusted coworker to help you process these possibilities, and as God gives grace, respond to the responsibility we have to honor God and his people with the way we do our work.

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