

## **Classic Career - Calling**

### **Week 1**

#### **Workplace Entrance**

Do you remember the first time you ever engaged in “work”? Do you really remember? Let’s take a quick journey back in time, starting with the day you were born. No work there; mom and the medical team did all the work for you that day! And for your first few years of life, you were simply amazed at the place God landed you. What an incredible amusement park! You were surrounded with sites, smells, sounds, and tastes that brought out every emotion and physical response placed within you. And as you grew, you learned and adapted to what brought both joy and love, and pain and sorrow.

In your formative years, you began learning from those around you that there were expectations to be met. Your actions would determine your rewards or punishments, and you began to realize you had abilities that could produce a wide variety of reactions from others. You had choices!

Baby steps were becoming big steps now, and before you knew it, even though you were just a youth, you were working! From household chores like setting the table, mowing the lawn, or washing the car, you likely moved into selling everything door to door from wrapping paper and popcorn, to cookies and doughnuts.

Do you remember the first task you accomplished? Praise for a job well done was likely all that you were paid; or perhaps you were gifted a merit badge or trophy. Everyone was so proud of your accomplishments, and more became expected.

#### **Fast Forward**

Fast forward to today! Whether you are a recent graduate, are mid-stride in your career, or even retired, deep within in you stirs a desire for both success and significance, and that’s because you are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14, NIV)! Your manufacturer’s tag reads “God Made”, but your care instructions can likely barely be read now as school, TV, music, games, relationships, and experiences have tossed, shaped, and washed you.

So how are you doing today? Are you caught up in the workplace hustle? Building procedures and systems? Fighting off the blame game? Avoiding justification and looking for the reinvention? No matter where you are, God intended for you to be His best and to “prosper even as your soul prospers” (3 John 1:2, The Message).

#### **God’s Best**

God’s best? You bet, and it is available when you sell out to God as your Creator, Father, CEO, and sole Investor in you. God designed you as a classic, unique, special, one of a kind man or woman, gifted with distinct abilities, incredible talents and skills. In Genesis 2:15, God placed Adam in the midst of the garden to steward God’s creation, including the naming of all the living creatures. The entrance of sin impacted man’s stewardship (Genesis 3:19), but the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ resulted in grace, victory, and power. Not just power, but Holy Spirit power that transforms the ordinary into extraordinary!

**Throughout the Week:**

This week, we invite you to explore the following scriptures and SOAK in them. Not sure about SOAK? See the explanation under “Additional Resources” below.

- Read Genesis 1:26-31. Man was made in the image of God; over what was he given dominion? List those items that God has given you to steward (be specific). How can you improve your stewardship? Develop a plan of action with specific goals and milestones to enhance your stewardship.
- Read Psalm 139 and reflect on verses 13-15. You are “fearfully and wonderfully made” by God. Write down your God given passions, interests and talents. How are you using them on a daily, weekly, monthly basis? Do you need to make any changes?
- Review 3 John 1:2 from The Message translation in the lesson above. How do you define “prospering”? What is the evidence that your soul is prospering?

**Additional Resources:**

**A simple method of Bible study includes the following steps (SOAK):**

<b><u>S</u>cripture</b>	Read a Bible passage
<b><u>O</u>bservation</b>	Where does the story/writing take place? Who is involved? What is happening? When is the story/writing happening (i.e., time of the day, in history, etc?) What is the big idea of the story/passage?
<b><u>A</u>pplication</b>	What can I learn from it? What action steps do I need to take?
<b><u>K</u>neel</b>	Kneel/Pray. Give thanks and ask for help. Pray for others.