



WEEK 1

TOPIC: **HONORING GOD
AT WORK**

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Why do we practice Lent? We do Lent as a way to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It isn't commanded in scripture, but here at Eleven22, we do it because we believe it's beneficial at times to tell our flesh no, so we can tell Jesus yes.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

I don't know about you, but I can't count the number of times in my past that I wished I had a better boss, or wished I had a better position, or wished I had a better salary, or wished I had better circumstances as I toiled in jobs that I thought were only the means to eventually accomplishing something greater. Essentially, I just wanted time to fast-forward so I could skip the perceived banality of my current role and get to the part where someone recognized me for my amazing skills and gave me the job of my dreams. After all, I "deserved" something better.

However, years ago God began introducing me to the idea that if I could just start giving up on trying to control all my circumstances that my circumstances might cease to totally control me. And for me, this was an earth shattering idea. Could it be possible to gain everything I would ever need (or possibly want) by giving up on the idea of gaining everything? I had to sit on that one for quite a while, but eventually the idea of being able to let go of control became extremely attractive. So I started down that path and here's what I found:

When I stopped wondering if anyone would ever notice my work, I just focused on doing good work. When I stopped distrusting people's intentions, I listened to them more intently. And when I began praying to Christ for my self-worth, my worthlessness began to disappear. In essence,

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WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

the moment I realized that my current circumstances are just that...current, God began to reveal to me that we are called to not separate our work from our walk, but instead to intertwine them and understand that the big picture is at play.

The truth is, there's nothing wrong with promotions, income, or the attainment of dreams. Those are all good things within themselves. However, they can also become all-encompassing and cause us to lose sight of who we serve and why we exist. In choosing Christ, our ideas of success can be changed forever, and that change can bring tremendous relief.

QUESTIONS

- 1. Who do you believe you're working for?**
 - 2. What is something in your daily life that causes anxiety and could possibly be turned over to God's control?**
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FAMILY APPLICATION

(An opportunity for you and your children to practice lent together.)

In discussions with your family, what are some things you can each identify that you spend the most time talking and/or thinking about? Do any of these things cause you anxiety or worry? If so, talk about what letting go of those things might look like and then pray together.

Gracious God, there are many things every day that I tend to put in front of my relationship with You. Though these things are not necessarily bad on their own, I recognize that when I take my eyes off Your word and Your plan, life can get very confusing and difficult very fast.

God, though these things are not always easy, I thank You for the trials in my life that force me to remember that I am not in control. I pray that You will continue to draw me/us closer to You daily and that we can take comfort in knowing that You went before all things and that we need to only follow.

In Your Son's Holy name we pray. Amen.

