

GOD & BUSINESS: SESSION FIVE

PURPOSE

Welcome! We are meeting together to discover and discuss any connections we see between spirituality and vocation. Although our study will flow from a Christian worldview, we welcome perspectives from other faith and non-faith traditions. What we do with our bodies and our lives, our *vocation*, matters deeply. We will explore how our vocation can be a participation in God's work of renewing all things and how vocation is related to the career we are pursuing.

GATHERING [5 MINUTES]

- Which next step did you try after our last study?
- How did it go?
- What did you learn about yourself, humanity, or God?

WARM-UP [15 MINUTES]

Let's consider an important question: *Does God care about business?* Jot down a few of your thoughts before we watch the video. (allow 1-2 minutes)

Watch this video (4 minutes): [Does God Care About Business?](#)



- What do you appreciate about this content?
- What do you disagree with? What makes you wonder?

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION [20 MINUTES]

Today we will read an account called "The Tower of Babel" from the Hebrew Bible. This is a sacred text of both the Jewish community and followers of Jesus, and it tells the story of God (the Lord) bringing people back to God's original plan: "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it" (Genesis 1:28 NLT). Following this plan would have naturally led to the development of many cultures and languages.

GENESIS 11:1-9 (NLT)

^{1:1} At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. ² As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia and settled there.

³ They began saying to each other, "Let's make bricks and harden them with fire." (In this region bricks were used instead of stone, and tar was used for mortar.)

⁴ Then they said, "Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world."

⁵ But the Lord came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶ "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! ⁷ Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other."

⁸ In that way, the Lord scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the Lord confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you appreciate about this content?
- What makes you wonder?
- What do you disagree with?
- God opposed the people in their attempt to consolidate power and build structures that would make them famous (in contrast to God's original instructions that they would spread across the earth and care for the community of creation). Why do you think God intercepts their plan and scatters them?
- What does God's opposition against the great city and tower have to do with business?

NEXT STEPS [5 MINUTES]

Which next step could you take based on our discussion today?

Perspective – Which businesses do you see building structures for power and fame? Which businesses do you see pouring their resources back into their workforce and the broader community? Notice these contrasting business models.

Engagement – Check your own motives. Why do you seek a career in business? What do you hope to gain or produce for yourself, other people, and the land? Talk about this with a friend.

Investment – Clinging to healthy and just motives in business can be difficult in the long run, so take time now at the start of your career journey to begin a regular practice of examining your motives. Write 2-3 questions you can ask yourself perhaps weekly or monthly. These questions should help you examine areas such as the choices you are making, the impact of your choices on yourself and the broader community, your motives, how you feel in relation to God, your level of joy, and so on. Consider interviewing someone in your field to learn about how they have cared for their own ethical formation as they participate in helping the whole community flourish.

HELP US MAKE THIS BETTER!

[PLEASE PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THIS STUDY!](#)