

STUDY NOTES

A SERMON *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Live, Work, Study, Play” on 8/20/17 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 5:11-16

GOING INTO ALL THE COSMOS

As Christians, we have the Great Commission which calls us to make disciples in the places that we are going. We also have the Great Commandment that tells us to love God and others. So how do we do all of these? We need people who are in the world being “salt and light”. Salt acts as a preservative in the world, and light illuminates people to see Jesus. We need people who want to create healthy environments.

Healthy systems produce healthy people.

- *What has been your experience with being in unhealthy systems (i.e., homes, workplaces, neighborhoods)?*
- *What are some things that you think are important for healthy environments?*

IN THE PLACES THAT WE LIVE

Read Acts 17:24-26. The place where we live is important. We aren't placed there just for our own sake. God places us there to be the salt and light to the people around us.

- *How do we see the places that we live as only for ourselves?*

- *If the location where we live isn't about us, how should we be thinking about our neighbors?*
- *If the location where we live isn't about us, how could one discern about moving?*

IN THE PLACES THAT WE WORK

Read Colossians 3:23. The view of work in the Bible is revolutionary. Ancients believed that work was a curse to be had for only the underclass. Modern day views work as just a way to make a living. However, Tim Keller says this about the Bible's view of work:

“Work is the gracious expression of creative energy in the service of God and others.”

Work in and of itself is good and we should all work as bondservants to our bosses just as we would to Christ himself.

God matters to our work and how we work matters to God.

- *Why is understanding the way that the Bible portrays work important?*

IN THE PLACES THAT WE STUDY AND PLAY

What we study matters and how we recreate matters. Whether actively in school or whether retired, learning and studying will always be a part of life. Remember, when it is hard and you want to quit because work and life is hard in this world, you have Jesus as your strength.

- *Based on what we've talked about with vocation/calling, what has been your experience with studying and how it relates to where you end up working?*
- *Why does the way that Christians recreate matter?*
- *What are some specific ways that we need Jesus as our strength in all of these places: live, work, study, and play? We often don't talk about needing Jesus's strength where we play. How do we need Jesus's strength where we play?*