



## **Beacon Church Connect Groups Application: week commencing 19 February 2017**

### **Background: Scattered Servants in the workplace.**

On Sunday we considered our attitude towards work so that we can become more effective as “scattered servants” in our work places; where many of us spend a good proportion of our time. We thought about Sully Sullenberger, the captain of Flight AA1549 who just by doing his job well saved 155 people by crash landing his plane on the Hudson River in New York; having had only 3.32 minutes to decide what to do and land the plane after a bird strike! In the Old Testament we illustrated how we should behave in work through the example of Joseph, particularly in Genesis 39, 1-6. We saw how God the Father is with us, in order to bless the world through us, by the power of the Holy Spirit in us. Father God has a high view of work; he invented it at creation (it was hard work as he rested!) and commissioned people to work to look after it (Genesis 2,15). God is pleased with whatever work we do; Joseph was both a labourer and government minister. He went through some hard times but understood that his circumstances may change but his status before a loving heavenly Father did not. Through Joseph, the Father was working out his plan of salvation (from starvation in that case) for a people who did not even recognise his existence – that is love!

We saw how Joseph demonstrated a number of characteristics in his workplace including:

- 1) Humility (he had to learn this)
- 2) Hard working and diligent in learning skills
- 3) Concern and respect for work colleagues and bosses
- 4) Being Trustworthy and Trusting God
- 5) Integrity and restraint in the face of temptation
- 6) Perseverance in the face of pressure and setbacks
- 7) Openness about his faith
- 8) Credibility through balancing all these characteristics; being different, without being separate or weird!

*NB: You could compare this list to the love described in 1 Corinthians 13 v 4-7 (Look at it in the Message).*

Finally we saw how the Holy Spirit can help us at work in 3 ways in particular:

- 1) He helps us make wise choices (see Genesis 39, 7-10)
- 2) He gives spiritual discernment (see Genesis 40, 8 and 41,16)
- 3) He helps us give sound advice (see Genesis 41, 33-38)

### **Suggested questions – be selective**

What is your view on the job you do (no matter what it is – paid or voluntary)? To what extent do you regard it as your “ministry” (i.e place where you serve the Father) or an inconvenient distraction?

What opportunities have you had for conversations about faith with people at work (mainly in down time not work time!)? To what extent have they initiated discussion?

Share examples where you have been able to open up conversations with colleagues (e.g. by asking simple questions)?

Looking at the characteristics listed above (1-8), to what extent do you exhibit these in your work places (or everyday life)?

Share experiences where the Holy Spirit has helped you at work with practical decisions, actions and advice or where you have been able to use spiritual gifts (healing, prophecy, prayer etc.)?

Pray for each other to flourish in your workplaces to the glory of God.

Pray particularly for those looking for work and those feeling under pressure or disappointed at work.

Be blessed in your work places

Keith Holder

*NB: I recognise that not everyone is in paid or voluntary work (e.g. retired or looking after family members) but hope that you can relate these characteristics to whatever activities make up your day. And we can all pray for each other.*