



...that the hardest part of the transition for me would be adjusting to a huge increase in my workload and in my stress. I'm more aware of my opportunity to be an insider to my coworkers now in my second year of teaching when my life is a bit less hectic, but it's still challenging to reach out to them. I wish I would have been trained more in how to reach out to people naturally in a working environment."

2) DISCUSS WORK BIBLE STUDY (ROUGHLY 60 MINUTES TO PREPARE/20 MINUTES TO DISCUSS)

**Work is an important part of your life. You will spend about 30% of your life at work! What does the Bible say about the purpose and dignity of work in these passages?**

- Mark 6:3
  
- Ephesians 4:28
  
- I Thessalonians 4:11-12
  
- I Timothy 5:8

**Don Eberly, who served as deputy director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives under George W. Bush, has this to say about work:**

"The sense that all of life must be lived for God opens all vocations to the possibility for spiritual influence. Thus, believers must permeate society. Christians need to live with integrity and make distinctive contributions in the social, scientific, artistic, educational and political life of the nation." (Don Eberly, *Restoring the Good Society*)

**What does this perspective (combined with the scriptures above) say about the importance of the career you are considering and preparing for?**

**How we work is also important. Record observations from the following passages that relate to employee-employer relationships, work ethics and attitudes.**

- Nehemiah 4:6

- Proverbs 22:29
- Ephesians 6:5-7
- Colossians 3:22-4:1
- 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

**Character, skills and competency all reflect our relationship with Jesus and a heart for those we work with. In light of the scripture above, how might you show the following qualities in the career you have chosen?**

- Servanthood
- Response to authority
- Integrity
- Encouragement instead of complaining
- Authenticity

3) DISCUSS BEING AN “INSIDER” (ROUGHLY 30 FOR PREPARATION/20 MINUTES TO DISCUSS)

“This calling (to participate in what God is doing today) is to be worked out within {believers’} existing relational networks where they are already positioned as insiders. God intends that every part of our daily life should line up with His purposes, to His glory.... This is something that is within reach for all of us, not just the gifted few.” (*The Insider* by Jim Peterson and Mike Shamy)

**What role does Jesus see His followers playing in the world?**

- John 17:15-23

- I Peter 2:9-12

**Jesus called some of His disciples to “come follow,” but there were others that He did not ask to follow Him. Why?**

- Mark 5:14-20

- John 4:28-30, 39

**How should we relate to the non-believers around us?**

- Matthew 5:13-16

- Matthew 9:9-13

- Luke 6:27-36

- Luke 14:12-14

- “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” (John Maxwell)

**What did Paul expect of local believers?**

- Romans 12:14-21

- I Corinthians 5:9-13

- Philippians 2:14-16

- Colossians 4:2-6

**The concept of being an “insider” challenges traditional ministry assumptions:**

- the ordinary believer has a key role (it’s *not* just the pastor’s or staff’s job)
- the ordinary believer is a vital participant (not just a spectator)
- the ordinary believer is a minister (not just a helper)
- the Holy Spirit oversees the ministry (not just the Pastor)
- all can play a part (not just the gifted speakers or leaders)
- minister where you are (this isn’t limited to running programs at church)
- minister with what you have right now (a lot of training is not necessary)

**What steps will you take after college to make sure that you are developing authentic relationships with not-yet-believers? What might that look like?**

4) ANTICIPATE TOGETHER (ABOUT 15 MINUTES FOR DISCUSSION)

- What things about how you approach your school work (and any other work you do) “will stay the same for you after you graduate?”
  
- What things about the way you reach out to others will stay the same for you?
  
- What things do you anticipate will change?
  
- What can you do now to prepare?

5) TAKE TIME TOGETHER TO JOURNAL (ABOUT 10 MINUTES TO WRITE/REFLECT)

- What fears do you have about developing work relationships after college?
  
- What other concerns do you have about entering the work world?
  
- What is one thing you could begin to apply right now from this session?
  
- What is one thing you want to remember during your transition away from campus?
  
- What scripture influenced or encouraged you the most from this session?