

# CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

Conversations that Matter are Online Gatherings of Bay Area Leaders of Faith + Nationally Recognized Thought Leaders Designed to Spark Dialogue Around the Big Questions that Impact Spiritual Life in the Bay Area.

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# How Does Work Matter to God

This resource is a companion to the Conversation that Matters on Faith and Work to use during a time of reflection on how to support your church members in their career and workplace

Panelists:

[Dr. David Gill](#), author of [Workplace Discipleship 101](#),

[Denise Lee Yohn](#), Director of [Faith & Work Journey](#).

[Andrew Hoffman](#), lead pastor at Solano Community Church, El Cerrito

For many of those attending our churches work is either the primary place to find a sense of identity and self-worth or the place to tolerate until something better comes along. The panelists in this Conversation that Matters discuss how integrating faith with work leads to a better understanding of the role of the believer in the workplace?

**“Martin Luther said that it’s not just about the priests, the pastors, the preachers and the pastoral care givers. It’s about the bakers and the farmers. They’re called of God to do that work. That’s the work of God; that’s ministry in its own right.” - Dr. David Gill**

## Develop a Theology of Work

David: God wants us to think theologically; to ask God, how do you want us to view the meaning of work and the character of work?

### **7 recommendations for how to re-form our view of work life and the workplace to help our members find meaning.**

1. Acquire a solid biblical view of work.
2. Study work, business, and economics.
3. Visit the workplaces of members of your congregation.
4. Pray for your members’ work.
5. Preach and teach the workplace lessons whenever they arise in Scripture.
6. Commission and affirm members for their work
7. Educate

**“We need to be building up our people so that they understand how to do their work as Christ-followers...Unless we address people’s work, they’ll think my pastor doesn’t care about my work, they don’t understand it, or they don’t approve of it. I don’t think that’s the message we want to be sending.”  
-Denise Lee Yohn**

## Post-pandemic Identity Crisis

Denise: For too long people have tried to drive their identity, their purpose, and their meaning from work. During the pandemic when work was so disrupted, and people’s lives were so disrupted we realized that that’s not right. As Christians we know that we need to drive our identity from Christ. Therefore, our work needs to be an expression of that identity and a way we live out that identity. People are not hearing this message from the church.

**Now's the time for us to introduce a healthy, God-honoring, life-giving perspective of work that helps them put it all into context and hopefully motivates them to re-engage with the workplace in a healthier way.**

*"If we don't talk in the church about our identity as people who work, then we're just thinking about work in a worldly way, so we don't have a Godly way to think, a positive way, to think about our identity as people who work." - Andrew Hoffman*

## **Work and Rest**

David: God is not the God who works all the time and doesn't rest. No, He sets us a model. We need to have Sabbath where we worship, hang out, and play.

## **Make Connections**

### **Connections to others:**

Denise: We have to help people make connections. It's hard work, but once you do it, there's so much fruit that comes from it.

### **Connections to our ministry:**

Question: How do we want to equip people to do things differently?

Answer: Through a sermon, course, or seminar.

### **Connections in the workplace:**

Take time to meet with your members in their workplace.

Andrew: When you do something proactive like, Bring your pastor to work it really is stepping into that space. We need to fortify the healthy and help people to take it to the next level in their walk with Jesus.

**"The amount of influence that you have on the world is remarkable. The people who are sitting in your pews are the folks who are shaping our culture, our technology, the way we are living our lives. We have this awesome opportunity to build them up as Christ-followers who have this gospel inspired vision of work and to be able to glorify God in their work. Is the next Mark Zuckerberg sitting in your pew? Wouldn't you want to build them up to be the kind of faithful servant leader that we know God is calling them to be." - Denise Lee Yohn**

# Resources

## Books:

[Workplace Discipleship 101](#), David Gill

[Every Good Endeavor](#), Tim Keller

[Kingdom Calling: Vocational Stewardship for the Common Good](#), Amy L. Sherman

[Work Matters: Connecting Sun Worship to Monday Work](#), Tom Nelson

[Work and Worship: Reconnecting our Labor and Liturgy](#), Matthew Kaemingk, Cory B. Willson

## Articles:

["We're Not Having a Work Crisis, We're Facing an Identity Crisis"](#), Denise Lee Yohn

## Organizations:

[Made to Flourish](#)

[Faith & Work Journey](#)

[The Workplace 313](#)