

— *weekly* —

STUDY GUIDE

WORK MATTERS

WEEK 12 // *Christian Retirement*

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Introduction

Welcome to week twelve of the Work Matters study. Last week we learned what is required of a Christian Boss. This week we seek to find the answer to the question: What does the Bible say about retirement? As you begin, prepare your mind to receive the lesson God has for you.

In this guide you will find questions for your own personal study along with questions to discuss at a Bible study, neighborhood gathering, or at the dinner table with family and friends. Enjoy!

Personal Study

READ

Read Psalm 71:9-18 and consider these questions.

CONSIDER

- What fears and hopes do you see in the words of the Psalmists? In what ways can you relate to his thoughts and feelings regarding growing old?

- What do you hope to accomplish in the twilight of your life?

Personal Study Continued...

READ

Read Luke 2:25-38 and consider these questions:

CONSIDER

- Simeon and Anna were in the latter years of their lives, yet they still played significant roles within the community of God. What significant strengths and gifts do retirees bring to our community?

- People often seek to reward themselves for decades of hard work during their retirement years by pursuing pleasure and relaxation. This idea is not necessarily wrong, but can this attitude become harmful to the individual and/or the Christian community?

- Who is someone you know that is making the most out of retirement? What are they doing that you would like to emulate?

PRAY

If you are retired, ask God to reveal to you His purposes for this period of your life. If you are not retired, pray for some of the retirees in your life, asking God to use them in powerful ways.

Group Study

ICE BREAKER

Discuss this question as a group. What is one exciting experience you would like to experience before you die?

Previously, we learned these key truths about work:

- Lead like Jesus – Use, don't misuse your authority
- Remember in God's eyes, you are no better because you're the boss

DISCUSS

- What new insights or questions about work came to your mind over the last week?
- In what ways are you being inspired to make changes in your work life?

READ

Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8 and discuss the questions below:

DISCUSS

- As the Apostle Paul approached the end of his life, he penned these famous words. In what ways could they be used as a blueprint for Christian retirement?
- Aside from Numbers 8:23-26, which was addressed to the tribe of Israel that oversaw the work of the temple, the Bible doesn't specifically mention retirement. So, in your opinion, how should a Christian spend their retirement years?

CASE STUDY

Use the following case study as a model for a real life situation where you could put this week's lesson into practice.

This weekend is Gary's retirement party. He can hardly believe it. After 35 years in the same company, he is calling it quits. He started driving a forklift in the warehouse as young man, drove the delivery trucks for a few years, spent many successful years as a salesman, and for the last decade managed the operations staff. He has always seen his work as a form of worship to God and the fruit of labor is evident. Nearly all of his current employees and many former co-workers are flying into town to honor him.

Deep down, he is a little scared to retire. Work has always been a huge part of his life. He loves to golf and read, but doesn't want to spend the remaining decades of his life lounging around without purpose.

Using the scriptures from this study guide for guidance, what could you say and do to encourage Gary?

PRAY

Close your time together by praying for any needs within your group. Also, pray for a clear picture of the purpose God has for you in this season of life, whether you are retired or not. Lastly, ask God to give you a heart like His.