

Labor Day

Fruitful Work

Psalm 1:3

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields
its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.

Best Use

As an individual activity to do on or near Labor Day.

Goal

To remain or become fruitful in our work for the glory of God.

Serve It Up

Follow these steps to reorient your heart towards work...

1. Consider the Bible

- Verses on Work
- Genesis 2:15

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”

- i. From where did work originate?
 - ii. If God is good, what does this mean for work?
- Psalm 1:1-3
- “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.”

- i. What does knowing God through delighting in him and his ways mean for all that we do? How about for our schoolwork or vocation?

2. Pray

- Try praying this prayer (throughout the week) from the Fuller De Pree Center written by Mark D. Roberts:

“Dear Lord, as I think about my work, I want to be like that tree in Psalm 1.

I want to yield fruit in season. I don’t want my leaves to wither. I yearn to prosper in whatever I do in my work.

You have made me to be fruitful, Lord. So my yearning is part of my God-given DNA. That I want my life to matter- yes, my work to matter- is a result of how you have created me. Plus, I am your handiwork, created anew in Christ Jesus for good works that you’ve prepared for me. I want to do these works in all of life, including the part of life I call my work.

Help me, I pray, to be a tree planted by streams of water.

May my roots grow deeply into your truth and love. May I take time each day to meditate on Scripture, so it might inform and inspire my work.

Even as I’m doing my job, focusing on the tasks before me, may your Word be alive within me: guiding, encouraging, nourishing, empowering and liberating.

To you be all the glory in my work today! *Amen*”