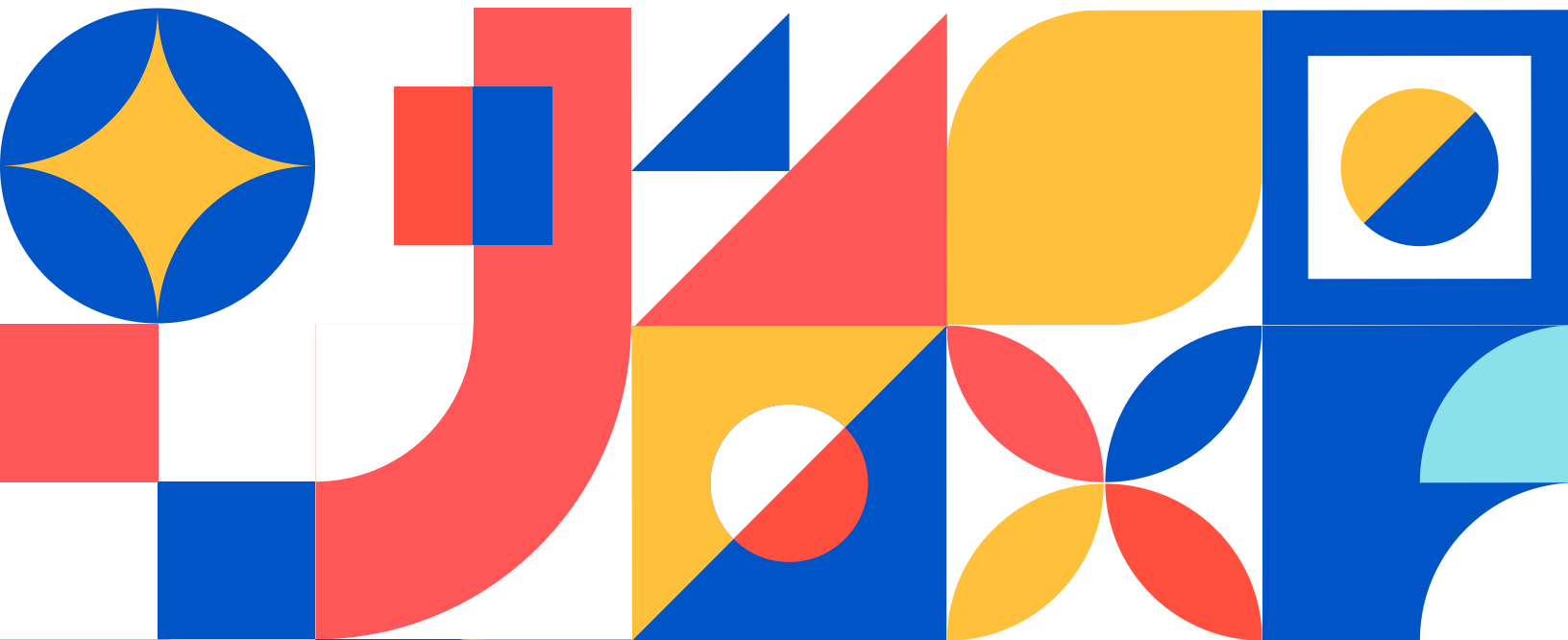




# GROUNDWORK LEADERSHIP

An 8-lesson program for leadership development in the local church.



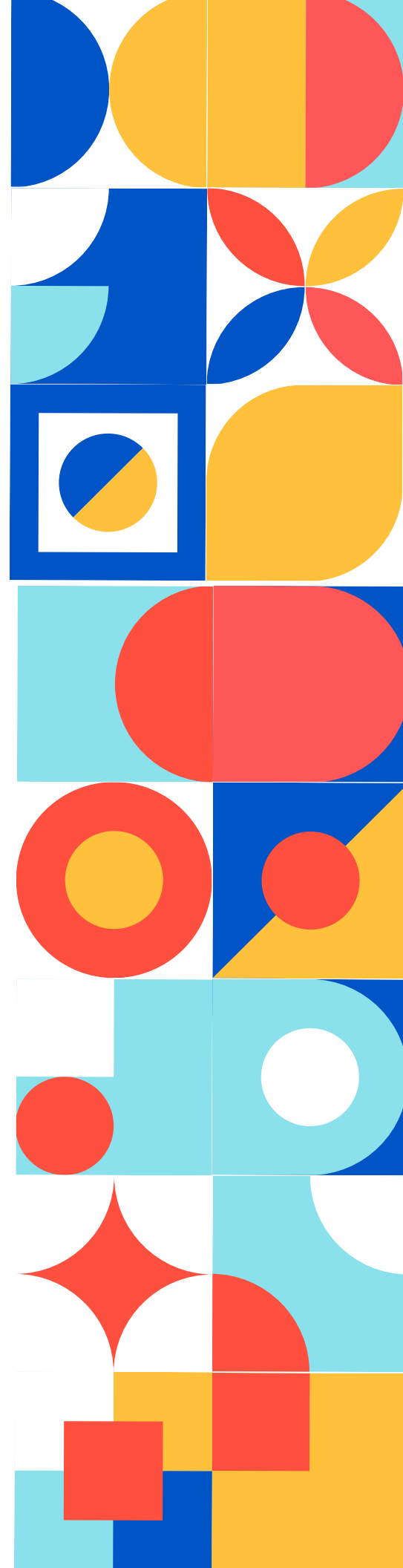
# INTRODUCTION

GroundWork Leadership is an **eight-session leadership development initiative for local churches**. It's easy to implement and teach. The initiative is designed to create a Biblical framework for a leader's **character, mission, and practice** to better equip and mobilize men and women for **faithful and effective gospel service in their local church and community**.

The development of this initiative has been generously made possible by **NC Baptist**.



We are also indebted to the leadership of Grace **Community Church in Marion, NC**, who faithfully and humbly raise up leaders in their local church. They developed this model and have generously shared their resources to be adapted for use in this initiative in order to advance the vision of seeing biblical leaders developed through local churches across North Carolina.



# INITIATIVE BASICS

## PURPOSE

To provide a first-step for identifying and equipping leaders in the local church.

To offer a framework to facilitate spiritual growth and application of biblical leadership principles in the life of the leader.

## DESIGN

The leadership cohorts are designed to give local churches a structured and easy-to-implement approach to leadership development. The model is oriented around eight training sessions scheduled over two semesters.

**The initiative is for church members who aspire to or are currently leading in the local church or community.**

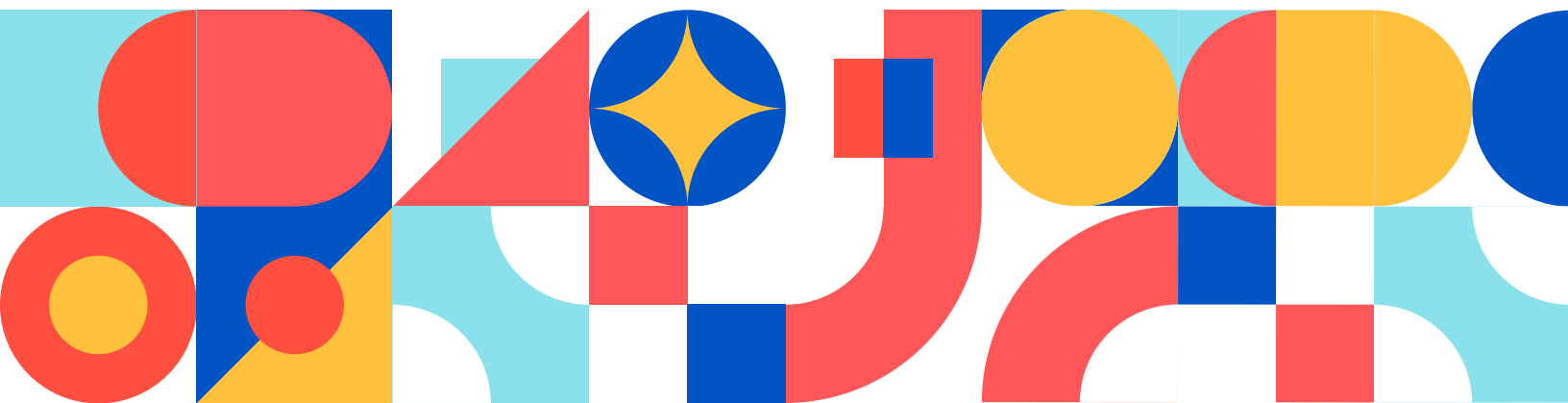
Each session includes a meal (time of fellowship), a presentation on the book, a discussion on the book (i.e., how it applies to their lives and how it applies to their role in the local church), and a monthly challenge (which is in response to the topic discussed).

## THEMES

The **mission**, **character**, and **practice** of a leader.

# PROGRAM OUTLINE

<b>MONTH ONE*</b>	<b>THE WORK OF A LEADER</b> <i>Main text: Work and Our Labor in the Lord, Hamilton (2017)</i>	<i>Mission</i>
<b>MONTH TWO*</b>	<b>THE GOSPEL MOTIVATION OF A LEADER</b> <i>Main text: The Gospel at Work: How the Gospel Gives New Purpose and Meaning to Our Jobs, Traeger and Gilbert (2018)</i>	
<b>MONTH THREE*</b>	<b>THE CHARACTER OF A LEADER</b> <i>Main text: Habits of Grace: Enjoying Jesus through the Spiritual Disciplines, Mathis (2016)</i>	<i>Character</i>
<b>MONTH FOUR</b>	<b>THE LIFE OF A LEADER: CHARACTER LIVED OUT</b> <i>Main text: Edwards on the Christian Life: Alive to the Beauty of God, Ortlund (2014)</i>	
<b>MONTH FIVE*</b>	<b>THE LEADER AND GOSPEL-CENTERED PRODUCTIVITY</b> <i>Main text: What's Best Next: How the Gospel Transforms the Way You Get Things Done, Perman (2016)</i>	<i>Practice</i>
<b>MONTH SIX</b>	<b>THE LEADER AND DISCIPLESHIP</b> <i>Main text: Discipling: How to Help Others Follow Jesus, Dever (2016)</i>	
<b>MONTH SEVEN*</b>	<b>THE LEADER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT + HOSPITALITY</b> <i>Main text: The Gospel Comes with a House Key: Practicing Radically Ordinary Hospitality in Our Post-Christian World, Butterfield (2018)</i>	
<b>MONTH EIGHT*</b>	<b>THE LEADER AND MULTIPLICATION</b> <i>Main text: Gaining By Losing: Why the Future Belongs to Churches that Send, Greear (2016)</i>	



# SESSION OUTLINE

Each session should be scheduled for 90-100 minutes. This time will include a meal, a presentation on the book (that participants read before the session, a discussion on the book (how it applies to their lives and how it applies to their role in the local church), Scripture memory work, live teaching and a monthly challenge (which is in response to the topic discussed).

## DETAILED BREAKDOWN

- **30 min** for the meal
- **60-70 mins** for the session
  - **5 min** intro
  - **15 min** teaching,
  - **15 min** discussion,
  - **15 min** teaching,
  - **15 min** discussion,
  - **5 min** wrap up

# LESSON AUTHORS



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 Mooresville, NC



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**ADRIAN EARLY**

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# DEVELOPMENT CATALYST TEAM



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NC Baptist: Great Commission Catalyst Regions 3 and 4



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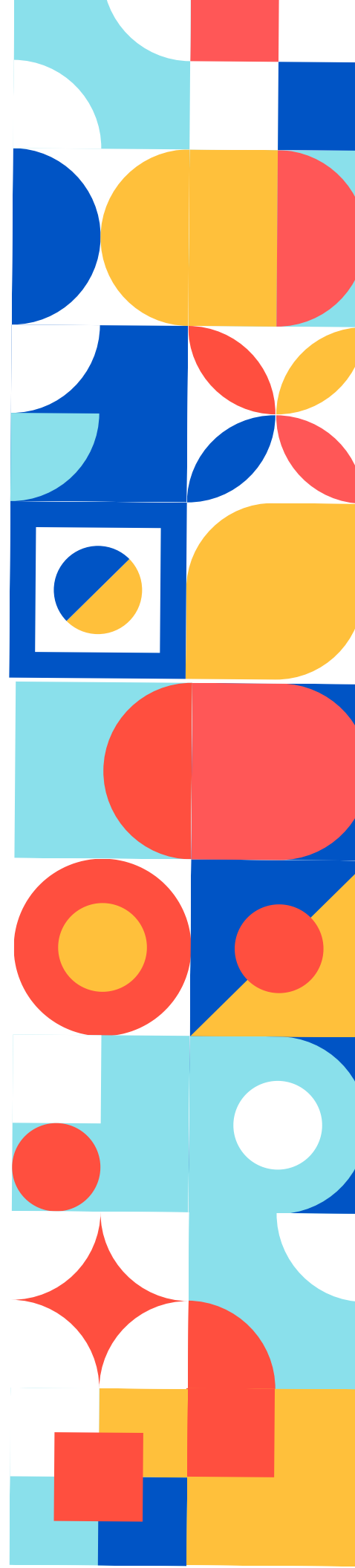
**JENN HECKMAN**

Project Coordinator



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Pastor at Glorieta Baptist Church, Concord, NC



# SAMPLE SESSION

## Teaching Guide: SESSION ONE

**Session Title:** The Work of a Leader

**Main Resource:** Work and Our Labor, by Jim Hamilton

**Session Author:** Adam Moore

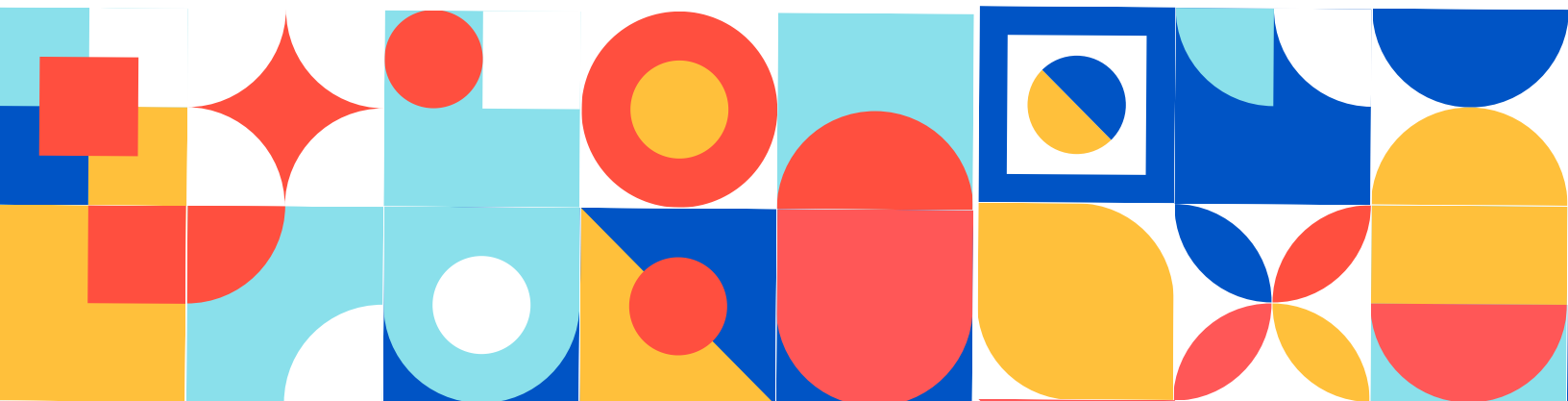
### Session Introduction (5 minutes)

As we study the Scriptures, it is evident all aspects of our lives were affected by sin and its results. Our bodies ache and decline, we wrestle with the impulse toward sin, and even creation itself groans for renewal. However, there is one part of our everyday lives that we often believe comes from sin but in reality, is a part of God's good creation: **work**. Yes, the Fall brought difficulty and struggle in work, but **work in itself is a good design of God in the life of the believer**. We desire to work as unto the Lord. In this session, we will discuss **the biblical portrait of work** and **how we can honor the Lord in all our effort**.

### Summary of Book

Hamilton, James. Work and Our Labor in the Lord. Crossway, 2017.

In this book, Hamilton seeks to help the reader understand work within an overarching biblical theology, starting with creation through the new heavens and new earth. If the term biblical theology is new to you, Hamilton summarizes the term as "the attempt to understand and embrace the interpretive perspective of the biblical authors" (11). Within this biblical theology, Hamilton lays out the role of work in creation, in the fallen world, in the inaugurated kingdom, and in the new heaven and new earth. When this picture is examined, it is evident that work existed from the very beginning of the biblical story to the very end. The necessity of work did not begin with the fall, but the curse of sin did corrupt every aspect of the task. However, the believer can find hope in Christ and his redemption of all things, including our labor before the Lord.



## Teaching Outline Part One (15 minutes)

In this first session, we will cover the role of work in the first two stages of the biblical story mentioned above.

### 1. Work in the Very Good Garden

- a. "The Bible's story of the world opens with God doing work, six days of it. Once completed, not from weariness but because the work was done, God rested on the seventh day...Given that man is made in God's image and likeness with Christians called to be imitators of God, the fact the Bible opens with this scene of God doing the work of creation by his powerful word calls for reflection" (18).
- b. As those made in the image of God, the task of work continues from the very beginning and was a part of God's mandate given to Adam and Even in Gen 1:28, one Hamilton refers to as an "epic task."
- c. The mandate given by God was to be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth, subdue creation, and rule it.
- d. Hamilton writes, "Work is therefore built into the created order, right from the start. God gave man stewardship of the land and all life on it" (21).

### 2. Work after the fall

- a. After the fall, God "made man's task more difficult by cursing the ground, making toil painful and sweaty, and expelling man and woman from the garden" (42).
- b. As a result of the fall, Hamilton notes that the biblical authors demonstrate how the results of sin touch "everything we are and do" (42). He states, "we are fallen, and that means our work will be fallen" (42).
- c. Our work is now more difficult, but we continue to labor for and unto the Lord.
- d. Hamilton breaks down the biblical portrait into three categories:
  - Fallen
    - Identity and Work: Genesis 4
    - A Comparison and a Killing: Genesis 4
  - Futile
    - Vanity, Vanity, All is Vanity: The Message of Ecclesiastes
    - Wise Work: The Father's Teaching in Proverbs
  - Flourishing
    - Good Examples: Joseph, Daniel, and Nehemiah, Ruth
    - How to Flourish in a Fallen World



## Discussion Questions Part One (15 minutes)

1. How does this biblical portrait impact how you view work and your vocation?
2. With the knowledge that work is a part of God's creation design, how does that change our view of work?
3. How have you seen real life evidence that the fall impacted work?

## Teaching Outline Part Two (15 minutes)

Now we will bring our attention to the reality of our vocational task in the light of the work of Christ.

### 3. Work now that Christ has risen

- a. Transitioning to this section, Hamilton writes, "We have seen that God created man to work, that sin made fallen work futile, but that God's merciful instructions nevertheless enable flourishing. We now consider how what Jesus accomplished on the cross redeems and frees people to work for God's glory" (69).
- b. Idolatrous Work
  - i. Ephesians 4:28, 1 Thess 4:11-12, 1 Thess 5:14, 2 Thess 3:5-15, James 5:4
- c. Work that adorns the Gospel
  - i. Work as an expression of love for God
  - ii. Work as an expression of love for neighbor
  - iii. Work in Christ

### 4. Work in the new heavens and new earth

- a. "The new work we will do is work of ruling and subduing, working and keeping, exercising dominion and rendering judgment, all as God's people in God's place in God's way" (91).
- b. What we look forward to:
  - i. Resurrection,
  - ii. Restoration,
  - iii. Inherit, steward, reign, and judge
  - iv. Feast
- c. "Jesus will come and raise the dead. Jesus will come and cleanse the land. Jesus will come and banish sin. Jesus will come and make weapons and gates and locks and alarm systems unnecessary. Jesus will come and make it so that mankind can do the work in the world that God creates us to do" (101).

## Discussion Questions Part Two (15 minutes)

1. How can we encourage one another to fight through the difficulty of work in a fallen world and honor the Lord in our tasks?
2. Does it change our view of the new heavens and new earth to know that work continues?
3. What missional opportunities do you think we are provided by approaching our work in this way?

## Conclusion (5 minutes)

There is no doubt that the next time we walk into our job there will be parts of it that excite us and parts that are difficult. There will be times in which everything seems to go well and times in which the tasks and the people we encounter discourage and frustrate us. We are certainly living in the midst of a fallen and broken world, which means these frustrations will be a part of our lives. However, we have a good future to look forward to, a new heavens and new earth where we will work with joy for the Lord. In the meantime, let us honor God in all we do and let us go about our tasks in a manner that points others to Christ.

## Challenge point for this month

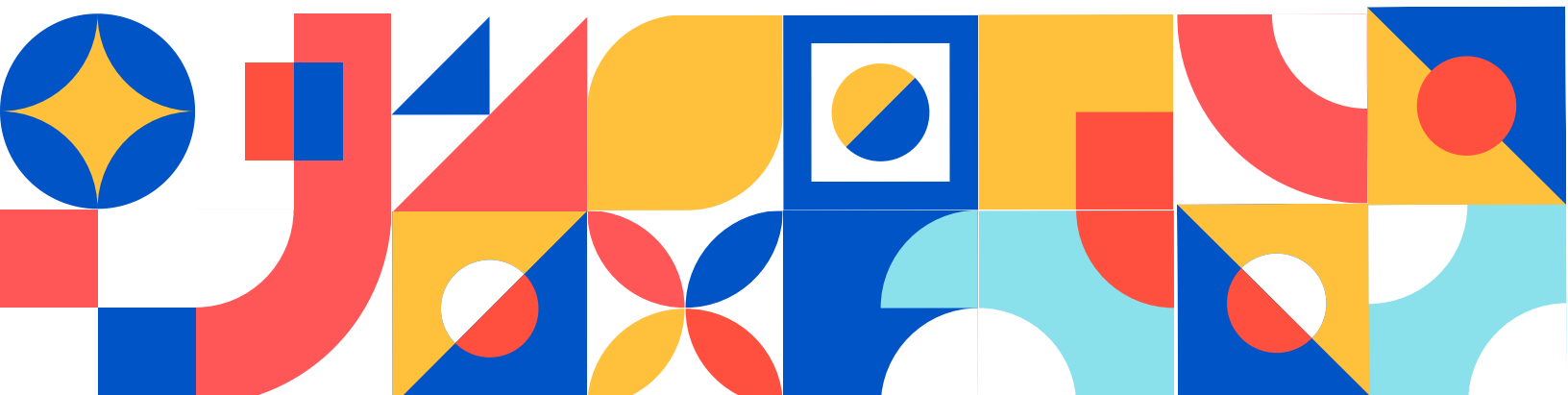
This next month, think about how you can both honor the Lord as you work and how your view of work can be an opportunity to point your coworkers to Christ.

## Additional Resources

Article: **Feature review: Work and Our Labor in the Lord** ([link](#)), Andrew J.W. Smith



Video: **Jim Hamilton on Biblical Theology** ([link](#)), Logos, Bible Study Magazine Podcast



# Student Workbook: SESSION ONE

**Session Title:** The Work of a Leader

**Main Resource:** Work and Our Labor, by Jim Hamilton

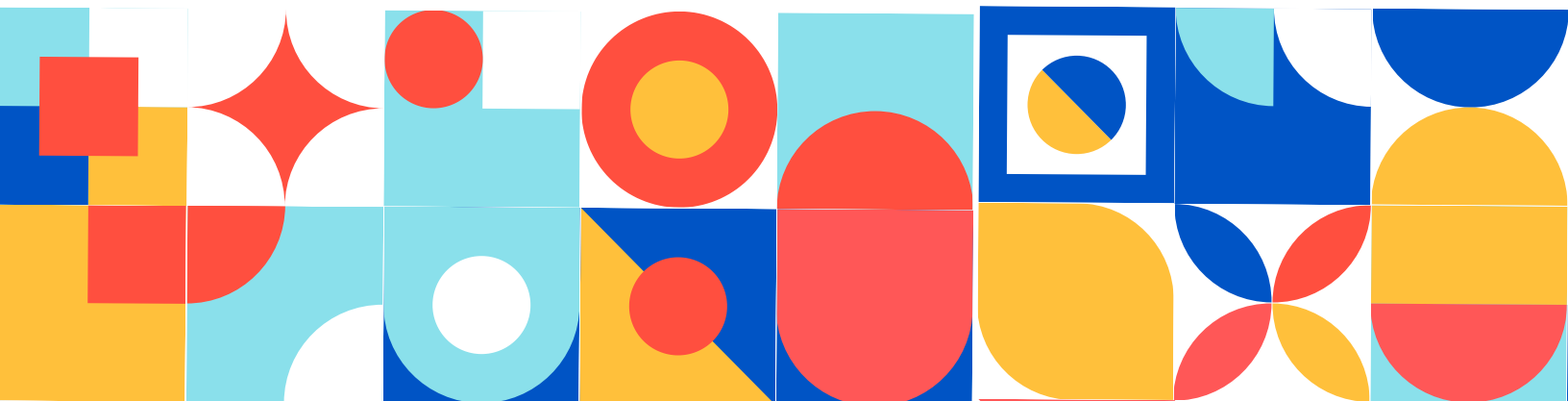
## Session Introduction

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## Teaching Outline

### 1. Work in the \_\_\_\_\_

- 
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work
- Work that adorns the gospel
  - Work as \_\_\_\_\_
  - Work as \_\_\_\_\_
  - Work in \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Work after the \_\_\_\_\_

- 
- Hamilton breaks down the biblical portrait into three categories:
  - 
  - 
  -

## Discussion Questions Part One

1. How does this biblical portrait impact how you view work and your vocation?
2. With the knowledge that work is a part of God's creation design, how does that change our view of work?
3. How have you seen real life evidence that the fall impacted work?

# NOTES:

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### 3. Work now that \_\_\_\_\_

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- What we look forward to:
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### 4. Work in the \_\_\_\_\_

- 
- What we look forward to:
  - 
  - 
  - 
  -
- 

### Discussion Questions Part Two

1. How can we encourage one another to fight through the difficulty of work in a fallen world and honor the Lord in our tasks?
2. Does it change our view of the new heavens and new earth to know that work continues?
3. What missional opportunities do you think we are provided by approaching our work in this way?

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## Conclusion

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