

# *Tree of Life School*

*"Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her."*

*Proverbs 3:18*

## *Career and Work Co-op Course of Study Outline*

## Introduction

For many in our culture today the whole idea of work leaves a bad taste in their mouths. It is something that must be endured to get the things that we need or, more often, the things we desire. We live in a T.G.I.F society, one that reluctantly rolls out of bed on Monday morning and then grits its teeth until the whistle blows on Friday. Then comes the week-end....and everyone knows this is where the real living begins. Is it any wonder that so many people hate to work with thinking like this?

However, the Bible clearly teaches us that work is a gift from God. It is to be embraced as one's calling. It is to be done to the glory of our Heavenly Father as if we are serving Christ directly as opposed to an earthly master. Work is not a curse, yet we make it that because we do not really believe that something that is so hard might actually be for our own good. For the Christian it is imperative that we develop the necessary attitudes, skills, and discipline to work at whatever God calls us to and to do it as unto the Lord.

“But, what is my calling?” many high schoolers ask. That's a legitimate question. There is no promise that you will discover your life's work by completing the requirements of this course but it is hoped that you will be more informed of some of the options out there and what is required to pursue them. It is hoped that you will enjoy the process.

### How to Proceed Through This Course

DAY 1 - There are really two key aspects to this course. One can be classified as theoretical and the other, practical. Both must be done to successfully complete requirements by the end of the year. Unlike many of our courses this course does not have a consistent daily schedule. A few of the assignments are indeed scheduled but the nature of some of the requirements means that you will need to set your own schedule and make sure you get it done. PLEASE NOTE: We have structured the schedule so that you do the theory part first (Days 1-49) and the practical part last (Days 50-140). However, you may choose to do the two parts concurrently. So, if you choose to do your work experience while you are also doing the theory component, you'll have to shift back and forth in this schedule. You will also note that we scheduled 74 days for your work hours. That, of course, is just an arbitrary designation. You may work 1 hour a day, 30 minutes a day, or 8 hours a day. The key is that you need to have 75 work hours total to complete this part of your course requirements. You can read more about this later in the daily schedule. But...let's move along.

There is only one text for this course, God at Work. This book, and the accompanying assignments, will be done first as it will help lay an important Biblical framework for not only why we work, but also will expand your understanding of the doctrine of vocation. After you read each chapter, you will be asked to log onto your student account and complete a brief, automated quiz dealing with that specific chapter. Each quiz will contain five questions and you are not allowed to use your text while writing the quiz. There are 11 chapters in all and you will be expected to complete one a day. If you prefer to do more than that, that is fine. Today read Chapter One: *Introduction: The Christian's Calling in the World*. Once you have read the chapter log onto your account and complete the quiz for Chapter One. Remember you can't use your text to help you answer the questions.

DAY 2 - Today read Chapter Two: *How God Works Through Human Beings*. Once you have read the chapter log onto your account and complete the quiz for Chapter Two. Remember you can't use your text to help you answer the questions.

DAY 3 - Today read Chapter Three: *The Purpose of Vocation*. Once you have read the chapter log onto your account and complete the quiz for Chapter Three. Remember you can't use your text to help you answer the questions.

DAY 4 - Today read Chapter Four: *Finding Your Vocations*. Once you have read the chapter log onto your account and complete the quiz for Chapter Four. Remember you can't use your text to help you answer the questions.

DAY 5 - Today read Chapter Five: *Your Calling as a Worker*. Once you have read the chapter log onto your account and complete the quiz for Chapter Five. Remember you can't use your text to help you answer the questions.

DAY 6 - Today read Chapter Six: *Your Calling in the Family*. Once you have read the chapter log onto your account and complete the quiz for Chapter Six. Remember you can't use your text to help you answer the questions.

DAY 7 - Today read Chapter Seven: *Your Calling as a Citizen*. Once you have read the chapter log onto your account and complete the quiz for Chapter Seven. Remember you can't use your text to help you answer the questions.

DAY 8 - Today read Chapter Eight: *Your Calling in the Church*. Once you have read the chapter log onto your account and complete the quiz for Chapter Eight. Remember you can't use your text to help you answer the questions.

DAY 9 - Today read Chapter Nine: *The Ethics of Vocation*. Once you have read the chapter log onto your account and complete the quiz for Chapter Nine. Remember you can't use your text to help you answer the questions.

DAY 10 - Today read Chapter Ten: *Bwearing the Cross in Vocation*. Once you have read the chapter log onto your account and complete the quiz for Chapter Ten. Remember you can't use your text to help you answer the questions.

DAY 11 - Today read Chapter Eleven: *Conclusion: Resting in Vocation*. Once you have read the chapter log onto your account and complete the quiz for Chapter Eleven. Remember you can't use your text to help you answer the questions.

DAY 12 – This is a scheduled open day. How did you do on your quizzes? If you feel like you understand the doctrine of vocation now, take a break today. If not, re-read the chapter or chapters that you found hard to understand.

DAYS 13 to 19 - Today you will do some more reading. Only this reading will come from the Bible. Read and consider the following passages: II Thessalonians 3:6-15, Psalm 128, Exodus 20: 9-11, Ecclesiastes 2: 10-22, Ephesians 6: 5-9, and Colossians 3: 22-25. Write a paragraph explaining how these Scripture passages might influence a career choice you might make. Make sure your paragraph has a clear thesis statement and conclusion as well as obvious evidence that you are using the passages read in your

