

**WEEK 8 “Do the work you give us” FOR VOCATION IN DAILY WORK, Book of Common Prayer, p. 261**

**OPENING INVITATION** *Read aloud the prayer slowly. After a time of silence each person identifies a word or phrase that catches your attention.*

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*If technology and time permit, watch the accompanying video.*




**CONTEXT & HISTORY OF THE COLLECT** *Take a few minutes to discuss the context of the prayer.*

The collect is an adaptation from the original “For Every Man in his Work” prayer written by Bishop Frederick Dan Huntington found in the 1928 Prayer Book. In the modified version, “callings” was replaced by “occupations” and “mammon” [an Aramaic word which means wealth or riches] by “self alone.”

Define and compare callings versus occupations and mammon versus self alone. Discuss the potential change in the meaning of the prayer that might have been affected by the word replacements.

How does the context affect your understanding of the collect?

*After allowing each person to share, take a moment in prayer and ask God to speak through the Word. Then read the collect again, together aloud, slowly. Now, let each person read over the collect silently while being on the lookout for three things to notice and perhaps share:*

	Light bulb: This should be something that ‘shines’ from the passage—whatever impacts most or draws your attention.
	Question mark: Anything that is difficult to understand in the collect or a question that may be raised as a result.
	Arrow: A personal application from your life.

**SCRIPTURE** *Read aloud and consider these scriptural verses as they relate to the collect.*

**Matthew 6:24.** Money. We spend hours daily working to earn money. We live in a culture that influences us to keep up on the latest gadgets and trends...possessions. Conversely, money affords us financial security and offers us the opportunity to help those in need. This scripture tells us that we cannot serve God and wealth. Examine what this means for you.

**1 Corinthians 10:31.** We all desire to have fulfillment in our daily lives, whether that be in volunteer ministry work or in salaried careers. Sometimes we start to feel the weight of unhappiness because we lose perspective of “why” we do the work we are given to do. Examine if your work is being done to the “glory to God.”

**FINAL THOUGHTS** *These questions are suggestions. Use one, all, or none. Create your own questions; let the group decide where the conversation might go.*

1. How do you bring God into your work space?
2. What does it look like to “love your neighbor” when your neighbor is a colleague, customer, employer, etc. especially in the midst of conflict?
3. How might our daily work reflect our higher calling to be Jesus in the world?
4. Examine what challenges in the workplace or community draw you away from loving service.

**CLOSING** *Pray the collect together as a group.*

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*