



## The Secret Lives of Almost Everyone Week Six

### Opening Prayer

God, we dedicate our discussion to you today. Help us to honor you faithfully with our actions on the job and in relationship.

### Talk It Over

This week we looked at how we can live in a way that honors God at our places of work. All places of work have tensions, because every job you'll ever work at involves people and all people have problems. Creating consistency throughout the different areas of our lives helps to navigate this challenge.

- Do you find yourself behaving differently at work than other areas of your life? Why or why not?
- Do you have any fear associated with the idea of those you work with finding out more about your faith? Why or why not?
- Are there certain practices you exercise to help you remain faithful to God's love even as you work?

### Read Daniel 6:4 (NLT) and 1Corinthians 10:33 (VOICE)

We see in the story of Daniel that while Daniel did not agree with everything he was being asked to do or choose the environment he was in, he was committed to working with excellence. Showing up on time, doing the job you are paid to do, and working with integrity help you stand out as an employee.

- Think of a time (current or past) where you did not agree with or personally like the people in charge of you. How did you handle that challenge?
- When you invite God into the tasks of your daily work, what type of difference do you notice in the way you respond to your day?

### Read Philippians 4:8-9 (MSG)

God's love for us is set. There is nothing we can do to shift that. However, out of our faithfulness to that love we have personal responsibility for our actions and the internal condition of our heart.

- How is the condition of your heart when it comes to your job? How does that guide your day?
- Can you feel the unconditional love of God for you and your coworkers?

***Underlying all successful people is a strong sense of personal ownership and responsibility. None of them needs to be told, "It is your life." They already know that and live accordingly. - Henry Cloud***

- When something goes wrong, how quickly are you to look at your best response versus blaming someone else? Which response is more of a knee jerk for you?
- When you feel grounded in safety, love, and connection, how does that help you navigate problems or conflicts that arise?

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### **Read Daniel 1:8**

If Christian conversion is authentic, we are in a process of becoming more loving. This whole thing isn't simply about being good at following the rules, but love transforming us, prevailing in us, and out of us. If we are a committed believer and we are not becoming more loving, something is wrong.

- Have you ever expressed your desire or opinion in a respectful loving way? Share how you did this.
- Have you ever forced or pushed someone into giving you what you want or believing as you do? Share some about your experience.
- Spend a few minutes considering how loving you are and what areas you can grow in love.
- Think of what sorts of practices you can implement to your day to help you be more loving at work.

### **Read Matthew 5:14-16**

We are called to be a light in this world. Where we live, in our neighborhoods, in our schools, at our jobs, our whole lives should be integrated with the message of God's love and our faithfulness to sharing that love.

- If you have a story about sharing your faith in a work setting, share that with the group.
- Has God given you opportunities to speak and show his love that you weren't expecting? How did you respond to that invitation?

### **Closing Prayer**

God, thank you for the opportunity to increase our connection to how well you love us and in turn to show that love in all that we do. Be with us this week as we try and increase our capacity for both. Cover our interactions with others and help us to feel peaceful as we rest in your love and safety.

### **Challenge**

Begin to read the book of Daniel this week and ask God to show you ways that you can learn, change, and grow in your current life and work stage through his story.