

Reality Challenge

Introduction

This exercise helps you acknowledge and recognize God at work. Sometimes, the presence of God is obvious! We're overjoyed. We praise Jesus for another miracle. At other times, we wonder where God is. It might be a bad day at work, or maybe we weren't paying attention. But the Bible clearly says that He stays with us. *So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"* (Hebrews 13:6)

We encourage you to take at least 30 minutes to work through the following questions. They will help you put your workplace in perspective. Q1 is easy and straightforward. Q2 and Q3 may make you uneasy. Be honest when it comes to difficult people, you won't need to share this with anyone. Only Jesus and you will know. Write down their names so you know that they are real people, so that so may learn how to pray for them.

Q4 helps you take a positive look at your situation (no matter how bad it may seem). Q5 and Q6 require you to see things from a wider perspective. For the last two questions, you need help from the Lord. Pray as you begin: *Lord Jesus, you know me better than I know myself. Please remind me who you are, help me see you. Reveal my thoughts and my sins to me, and lead me in your righteousness.* (Psalm 139:23-24 paraphrase)

If you have a question, let us know. We will pray together for answers!

Where you work

1. Company: _____
 - 1) Industry: _____
 - 2) Position and brief job description: _____
 - _____
 - 3) What does Jesus think of your work?

2. Think of the people you meet every day. How is your relationship with them? How do you *feel* about them?
 - 1) Coworkers (including employers and supervisors)
 - i. Partners and best friends:
 - ii. People I try to avoid:
 - iii. People I don't know well:
 - 2) Customers
 - i. My best clients!
 - ii. Complainers and troublemakers!
 - iii. Others?
 - 3) Competitors

- 4) People you serve (directly or indirectly) 你的服務對象
 - 5) *What does Jesus think of them?*
3. Describe the “atmosphere” in your workplace/marketplace.
 - 1) Friendly, family-like, joyful?
 - 2) Negative, boring, full of complaints, bitterness, distrust, toxic
 - 3) Filled with anxiety and fear
 - 4) Others:
 4. For what do you give thanks in your workplace?
 5. What are your complaints?
 6. What are the main challenges in your marketplace?
 - 1) For you *personally* – personal life, career, emotions, physical health etc.
 - 2) For your company – sales, profits, expansion, layoffs?
 - 3) For your marketplace – industry issues?
 7. What do you think God is doing in your company and marketplace?
 8. Why do you think God wants you to work in your company?

Note:

When you work through this exercise, be as objective as possible. For example, someone has been laid off. We might assume that the company wanted to cut costs, or they just didn’t like that person. Pray and wait. There may be more.

The following **Big 4 Questions** will help:

1. What happened?
2. *Why* did it happen?
3. Where was Jesus when it happened?
4. What did I learn from this experience?

Once a month review these questions. Keep a journal.

How am I coping at work?

1. What is my purpose at work? How is it changing?
2. What are the challenges in my marketplace in terms of people and circumstances?
Have they become worse or better?
3. Who are the people helping me? What kind of help do I seek?

How is my mission?

Am I getting more proactive/positive about my workplace/work? 是否越來越積極?

1. Am I getting more aware of Jesus at work? Examples?
2. Am I making more allies? (Friends vs enemies!)
3. In addition to seeking out Christians at work, have I met more persons of peace?
(They may or may not be Christians, but you know they walk in step with the Lord)
4. Is the kingdom gaining ground in my marketplace? What kind of evidence is showing?