

# To Work Is To Grow

## SEE

- \* When have we worked really hard at something and felt that we have achieved something? Can we each give an example? Why did we do this? What affect did it have on us and on others?
- \* What is your “dream” job? Why?
- \* How do we think this job will make us feel?

## JUDGE

- \* What is good about work?
- \* How does work enable people to feel like they are contributing to the world?
- \* What can be bad about work?
- \* When can people’s working lives become unfair?

The Church says that the worker is always more important than the work. Work exists for the sake of people, not the other way around. In our work we participate in God’s work of creation. It should give people a sense of self worth, as they contribute to society, and support themselves and their family. Everyone should have good working conditions, decent and just pay.

## Voice from the Church



Made in God’s image we are given the task to transform the earth. By their work people share in God’s creative activity.

*Adapted from Laborem Exercens, On Human Work, Pope John Paul II 1981, #25*

- \* What do we think the Catholic Church is saying?
- \* What do we like about this teaching?
- \* What do we find challenging?
- \* How can people’s everyday jobs help to “transform the earth”?

# Impact!



# WordUp

## Matthew 20:1-16

Now the kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and he did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing around, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us," they answered. He said to them, "You will go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner saying, "The men who came last have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why should you be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.

- ★ What happened in this passage?
- ★ What message is Jesus trying to give us?
- ★ How important do we think work is for a happy family life? Why?
- ★ Are there some jobs as Christians we should and shouldn't do?



## ACT

### Help:

- ★ Can we help someone who is struggling because of work? How can we help one another contribute to making a better world?

### Tell it:

- ★ Can we tell people anything about what we've discussed?

### Stand up for:

- ★ Is there anything we can do to stand up for someone in a difficult situation in work?

## Take it further:

Look at the further issue sheets on Part-Time work, Voluntary & Unpaid Work, and Unemployment.

# To Work is to Grow: Further Issues

## SEE

### Part-Time Work

- ★ Have any of us got a job (part-time, paper round, Saturday job, etc)?
- ★ How many hours do we work?
- ★ How much are we paid?
- ★ Do we know what the minimum wage is for our age?
- ★ Do we enjoy our work?
- ★ Do we get on well with the other people at work?
- ★ Is it a safe place to work? Why?
- ★ Are any of us looking for a job? How has this been? What has been easy? What has been hard?
- ★ Do we have any concerns about our work, or the work of other young people?

### Voluntary & Unpaid Work

- ★ What types of voluntary work do people do?
- ★ Are there any other types of work which are unpaid (e.g. caring for a relative)?
- ★ Do any of us give any of our time to do some volunteering, or unpaid work? Why? Why not? If we do, how many hours do we give?
- ★ What voluntary or unpaid work could we get involved in within our local area?
- ★ What might stop us getting involved? Why?

### Unemployment

- ★ Do any of us know any young people who are unemployed? How long have they been unemployed? What sort of work are they looking for?
- ★ Do we know anyone whose parents are unemployed?
- ★ What difficulties does unemployment cause to these families? Can anyone share a story about this?
- ★ What other consequences can unemployment cause?
- ★ Can you give real examples?

## JUDGE

When you do the JUDGE, there are some general questions to reflect on, whichever of the issues you are looking at. Look at the three questions:

- ★ What do we think about the issue?
- ★ Is there anything good about the issue?
- ★ What is bad, or unfair, about the issue?

Now choose one of the sections below explaining the Church's view and one of the bible passages over the page to help you reflect further (we suggest you continue to use the same column)

## Voice from the Church

Workers not only want fair pay, they also want to share in the responsibility and creativity of the work process. They want to feel that they are working for themselves and are not just a part of a machine.

*Adapted from Laborem exercens, On Human Work, Pope John Paul II, 1981, #15*

We inherit the work that was done by generations before us, and we share a part in building a future for those who come after.

*Adapted from Laborem Exercens, On Human Work, Pope John Paul II 1981, #16*

When people work, they not only change things and society, they develop themselves as well.

*Adapted from Gaudium et Spes, Church in the Modern World, Pope Paul VI, 1965, #35*

- ★ What do we think the Church is saying?
- ★ What do we like about this teaching?
- ★ What do we find challenging about it?
- ★ How does this link to the issue of Part-Time Work/Voluntary & Unpaid Work/Unemployment?

# WordUp



## Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light."

- ★ What is Jesus saying in the passage?
- ★ How might we sometimes feel overburdened?
- ★ How does this link to the issue of part-time work?
- ★ What "rest" can we find in Jesus if we turn to him?
- ★ How might we be called to offer "rest" to others who might be finding work difficult and overbearing at present?

## Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus said, "You are light for the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in people's sight, so that seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in Heaven."

- ★ What is Jesus' message to those listening? How might they have reacted?
- ★ What is his message for us, especially in thinking about our voluntary and unpaid work?
- ★ How does this link to what we saw in *Voice from the Church*?

## Deuteronomy 15:7-8

If among you, one of your brothers should become poor you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.

- ★ What is the message of this Old Testament passage?
- ★ How can we apply this message to those we know who have become unemployed or are struggling financially?
- ★ How does this link to what we saw in *Voice from the Church*?
- ★ In what other ways may we be called to support people who are out of work or struggling, so that they feel useful and valued?

## ACT

### Help

- ★ Is there anyone or groups of people that we've talked about who we can help?

### Tell it

- ★ How can we speak out? Can we let people know what we've found out about this issue? How?

### Stand up for

- ★ Are there any young people who might need us to stand up and represent them because of this issue?

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