

Luther's Legacy for Laity
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This study guide will follow the 8 parts of Dr. Lose's DVD. Each part will include a brief summary, a list of Biblical passages (if any were referenced) and questions for discussion. Key glossary terms will be listed at the end of each section.

Part 7: Vocation Part 1

Summary:

God invites us into all arenas of life to live out our calling as his baptized children. Luther calls that our vocation. The question to ask ourselves in all areas of our life is "How can I take God's side for good here and now?"

Therefore everything we do is our vocation – both in our congregations and in our lives. God shows up in all arenas of our lives. While it is true that it is easier to see God at work in our congregation than in our job, both are equally important to God. The distinct calling of pastors is to equip all the baptized to live out their callings/vocation in the world.

Sunday is set up to empower each of us to be God's hands and feet in God's world. Christians have three distinct joys that help us in our vocations.

1. People of all faiths get to take these roles in the world. The joyful thing for Christians is that we know we are God's hands and feet.
2. We also have the benefit of the community of the saints to help us think through challenges in our work, family, and life.
3. We are empowered through the gift of the forgiveness of sins to try and try again, even though we might fail/sin, or are unsure of what we are to do. No matter how it goes in the world, no matter how terribly we fail or successful we are, nothing can destroy the relationship that God has established with us.

Biblical References:

1 Corinthians 10:31
Ephesians 4:11-13

Confessional References:

(none)

Questions for Discussion:

1. How can I take God's side here and now?
2. Do you think Sunday is the most important day of the week? Did Luther?
3. In light of Luther's doctrine of vocation, react to this statement, "It is good enough for government work."

4. What is the role of your pastor?
5. With all the choices you face, you are free to fail. Is that good news or bad news to you?
6. Some Christians believe that your service of God inside the congregation has more value than anything you do outside of the congregation. What do you think?

Glossary:

Vocation – The Christian's calling in all arenas of our lives.