

## God Works

A Round Table Discussion about how God works  
**Lesson 1: God Works Through the Church**

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**God's Mission**

Warm Up: What is a favorite memory you have of being part of a church?  
Why did you choose that one?

Watch video: **Episode 1: God Works Through the Church**

- Talk about the difference between “*God works*” and “*good works*.” Do you think Christians have done a good job making a proper distinction between the two?
  
- Have you personally seen a disconnect between what Jesus is about and what the Christian Church is about today?

Read Ephesians 3:9-10

- In what ways has the Church been good at “*making known the manifold wisdom of God?*” Where have we fallen short?

Read Ephesians 3:20-21

- Here Paul puts the church and Christ together “*throughout all generations, forever and ever.*” Why do you think people have been separating the two of late? (e.g. “*I love Jesus but not the Church.*”)

- Review the following “God Works” passages:
  - “On the seventh day God had completed **his work** that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from **all his work** that he had done.” (Genesis 2:2 CSB)
  - “The Rock—**his work** is perfect; all his ways are just. A faithful God, without bias, he is righteous and true.” (Deuteronomy 32:4 CSB)
  - “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims **the work of his hands.**” (Psalm 19:1 CSB)
  - “Jesus replied, “This is the **work of God**—that you believe in the one he has sent.”” (John 6:29 CSB)
  - “For **it is God who is working in you** both to will and to work according to his good purpose.” (Philippians 2:13 CSB)
  - “They sang the song of God’s servant Moses and the song of the Lamb:
    - Great and awe-inspiring are **your works**, Lord God, the Almighty; just and true are your ways, King of the nations.” (Revelation 15:3 CSB)
  
- What new insights on “God Works” are you gaining?
  
- Where is the Church suffering today because we deserve it? Where is it more akin to Christ’s suffering?

Read Philippians 1:29

- Why do you think Christians in the U.S. today don’t look at suffering for Christ as a blessing? What might change if we did?
  
- What multiple works did Jesus do in Mark 6:32-44?

Read Mark 1:5

- Talk about the significance of the fact that the first words we hear from Jesus as He begins his public ministry were about the “*Kingdom of God.*”
  
- What kind of King was/is Jesus? What does it mean to be a citizen of His kingdom?
  
- Why can't “*survival*” ever be good enough for the Church?