

Kara Martin: Our Work as Worship, Integrating our Faith and Work

Gospel frame	Key verse	Mind-blowing idea	Application to teaching	Spiritual practice
Creation God has created the human being, formed the human being lovingly, in his image, the image of a God who works.	Genesis 2:15	The link between work and worship is there from the very beginning.	Our role as teachers is to see every part of our work as having intrinsic value.	Spirit-empowered working
Fall This beautiful image of good and satisfying work is there for a moment before the harmony is ruptured.	Genesis 11:4	What is the motivation of our working, in the church, outside the church? To make a name for ourselves, or to honour the name of God?	It is easy for us to get caught up in our work.	Social justice working
Israel God calls a people into obedience.	Exodus 19:6	God directs his people through visions that stimulate their imagination for effective working and sustain them through the trials and tribulations of daily work.	What is God's vision for your students, for your classroom, for the staffroom, for the playground?	Holy working
Jesus Jesus emerges from the people of Israel as the promised Messiah, the true king not just of Israel but the whole world.	Luke 4:19	The word repent means a new way of looking. A new way of looking at God. A new way of looking at each other. A new way of looking at our world. A new way of looking at our work.	What is the new way of looking that you need? Too easily we can fall into simple ways of looking, especially binary ways of looking at our students.	Gospel working
The Church King Jesus has come, and he is seeking to do kingdom work through his people, the church.	Ephesians 2:10	We may be the only Jesus people meet, the only Bible people read, in our workplaces. We are meant to be scattered not gathered only.	For us teaching is as much about process as it is about content. I cannot remember much of the content of what I learnt at school, but I can remember certain teachers who left an indelible impression on me.	Incarnational working
The New Creation Let's turn to the magnificent images in Revelation 21 that inspire us. They should be read out more often, not just at funerals!	Isaiah 65:22b and 23a	Our work in heaven will be beautiful and fulfilling as we work in partnership with God. We don't know what it looks like, but it will bring us joy.	James K A Smith reminds us that humans are purposeful; the needle on their compass is always seeking some telos, goal or end. There is a great purpose in our work.	Prayerful working