

## Introduction

These studies are designed for use in small groups (e.g. growth groups). However, an individual will benefit from working through them on their own.

There is a logical flow in the studies, but you can pick the ones that best meet the needs of your group. Although they have wider application, they have been designed for people in paid or voluntary employment. Because each study stands on its own, some key theological points are repeated.

These studies have been prepared for people in all forms of paid employment. Issues to do with the purpose of work, working well, getting on with people at work and other challenges of work are common across all workplaces. However, obviously, some challenges are greater in some workplaces than others. Fear is one topic in these studies. It is likely that transport workers have greater cause to fear death and serious injury, than an office worker. While doctors fear causing death, and people in jobs that can be automated have greater cause to fear redundancy than people whose jobs can't be automated readily. Some of the questions focus more on the challenges of working in larger organisations, although the challenges of working in small organisations or alone can be just as intense. You will need to suit the questions to the specific workplaces you deal with.

Each study starts with a list of questions. In a small group setting you will often find there are more questions than you can expect to cover in one study. You will need to pick and adapt them for your circumstances.

Following some of the questions, I have provided some thoughts [in square brackets] on the range of answers you can expect. These answers are not intended to be exhaustive or prescriptive. There are study notes (of varying length and complexity) that follow the questions. These are designed to help you with the discussions around the questions.

The list of studies will be expanded. For example, we are working on a study of the issues that face a husband and wife, when both are in paid employment. If you would like studies on other work related topics, or have suggestions on how we can improve these studies, please contact [mark.wormell@barneys.org.au](mailto:mark.wormell@barneys.org.au)

A note about Mark Wormell: Mark worked his way through university as a plumber's labourer, working on building sites in the far western suburbs of Sydney. He then worked as a lawyer in an Australian based, international law firm from 1982-2009. He worked in its London office from 1984-86 and its Singapore office from 1987-1988. He was a partner for 21 years in Banking and Finance, and specialised in Capital Markets and Securitisation. His clients included the big 4 Australian banks, many international financial institutions and the Australian Government. He was also the staff partner for 4 years, having primary responsibility for recruitment, retention, remuneration, training and discipline. After graduating from Moore Theological College with a BD in 2013, he is now Minister for Workers and Workplaces at St Barnabas' Anglican Church, Broadway, Sydney.

The views expressed here are personal to Mark Wormell. He accepts responsibility for all errors.