

Pastorate Weekend Away

Introduction:

1. The Aim of the Weekend:

“so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life” (*Philippians 2:15-16*)

2. The Areas of Focus of the Weekend:

- a.
- b.
- c.

Session 1: WORK

Do you feel like God is interested in your work?

What is your vision of how you are serving God at work? Do you have one?

If the person sitting next to you were a fly on the wall at your workplace would they be surprised by what they observed of you?

If some of your work colleagues observed what you got up to and how you lived over this weekend, would they be flabbergasted at the contrast?

“You don’t waste your life by *where* you work, but by *how* and *why*”

John Piper

³¹So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³²Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— ³³even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. ¹Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1)

1. Where to Work

2. How to Work

THE PRINCIPLE =

i. (v.32a)

ii. (v.32b)

iii. (v.33)

3. Why to Work

i.

ii.

THE VISION =

SESSION 2: REST

- Hard work is a good thing (*Proverbs 6:6; 1 Thessalonians 2:9*)
- Rest is a good thing (*Exodus 20:8, Matthew 11:28-30, Hebrews 4:9-11*)

The absence of rest is not the presence of hard work, but the presence of burdens of sin and stress

1. Stress

“the reaction of mind and body to increased pressure”

Where are you experiencing, or have you experienced, increased pressure?

How have you reacted physically and emotionally to this increased pressure?

2. Stress Management

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

²⁸"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (*Matthew 6:25-34*)

a) The Intellectual Dimension

b) The Emotional Dimension

c) The Practical Dimension

SESSION 3: PLAY

1. Marriage and Singleness

a) Marriage is good

¹⁸ The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." ... ²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. (*Genesis 2:18,24*)

b) Singleness is good

"I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs – how he can please the Lord" (*1 Corinthians 7:32*)

	Marriage	Singleness
Positives		
Problems		

2. Sex

a) Marriage is the framework for sex (*Ephesians 5:22-33*)

b) Marriage and sex is not what life is all about (*Revelation 19:6-9*)

3. Dating

a) Why?

b) Who? (*Mark 10:6-7 & 1 Corinthians 7:39*)

c) How? (*Matthew 22:37-39*)

4. Dating going well

You've got to know someone 'as friends' for 6 months, then started going out with them, and now you've been going out for a year. All seems to be going well. You are both Christians. **How do you know whether this person is right to get married to or not?**

a)

b)

c)

d)

5. Dating going badly

a) If we muck up

i) (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

ii) (1 Cor 6:10a, Exodus 20:15)

iii) (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

b) If we break up

i)

ii)

Conclusion: