

Christ the Worker



Sunday 3rd May 2026

Sunday Worship Materials for Christ The Worker:

Meeting Jesus at Work

[Ideas for Sermon or Bible study](#)

Jesus encountered many people who were in their workplace, or about their daily business. Those encounters were many things – some were mundane, some were supernatural, some were affirming, some were challenging – but all were life changing. Our lives changed when we met Jesus and perhaps, in his strength, we can become catalysts for change in others. In our chaplaincy training, we reflect on introductions and first meetings. Let's look at what Jesus did.

[Bible readings](#)

[Matthew 4:18-20](#)

¹⁸As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

¹⁹ 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' ²⁰At once they left their nets and followed him.

[Luke 10:38-42](#)

³⁸As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!' ⁴¹ 'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed – or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'

[Luke 18:1-8](#)

¹Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short, he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. ⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.' ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. ⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, 'He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.' ⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now, I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.'

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Discussion points

Jesus went straight into the workplace of the **fishermen**. They were actively fishing – a task which required perseverance, skill, courage and determination. Jesus chose several fishermen to be disciples. They showed skills of, “hard work, perseverance, and the ability to work collaboratively.” These were practical attributes that would help them as their lives changed forever.

Jesus called them out of their occupation, as he does for many with a call to ministry, however, some are called to minister in their workplaces.

There is room for the supernatural even in the workplace. I HAVE prayed for the right sized bin bags – and God answered.

A reflection about the fishermen who met Jesus:

[FISHERMEN | Bible Reflection by Fr. Abraham Mutholath](#)

Martha was at work. She was preparing hospitality for Jesus and the other guests. She was ensuring the house was clean and the food was cooked. **Mary** should have been working too, but she was sitting at the feet of the Lord.

How do we cope when we feel our colleagues are not pulling their weight?

Sometimes less is more.

Perhaps we need to stop trying to do everything and do “the few things that are needed.”

Can we find time to listen to Jesus in a busy workplace?

How do you think Martha and Mary were changed by their encounter with Jesus?

Some occupations are disliked – **Tax collectors** still feature here.

What jobs do we dislike, or even look down on?

How do we feel about the people who work in unpopular occupations?

The least trusted occupation in the UK is a politician, with 78% of people surveyed distrusting them.

Here is a list of the most and least trusted jobs:

<https://hrnews.co.uk/revealed-the-10-least-and-most-trusted-professions-in-the-uk/>

Zacheus was dishonest. He stole from those he collected from. He was also seen as a traitor, working for the Roman occupiers. Even so, he still wanted to see Jesus.

Jesus called him out. His dishonesty needed to end, and he turned the situation around, repaying what he extorted and more.

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Songs

O Lord and Father of Mankind

Lord of all Hopefulness

All to Jesus I Surrender

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Shout to the Lord

How Great is Our God

Amazing Grace

Called by Christ to be Disciples

God is Working His Purpose Out

There are various songs about Martha and Mary here:

<https://loversify.com/hymns-about-mary-and-martha>

Intercessions

For all at work – paid or voluntary, and their colleagues and workplaces

<https://enlightio.com/prayers-for-work>

That workers can be as authentic with their faith at work as they can at church.

For those whose faith is a source of conflict in the workplace.

For those who work from home. We pray for those who feel isolated, for those juggling work and families.

For those who feel overwhelmed, have little time to rest, or struggle to hear Jesus in the workplace.

For those who have disputes with their managers or colleagues. For those who feel let down.

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Stories from Chaplaincy

We asked chaplains to share their “first encounters” with workers:

For me, the promptings of the Holy Spirit are very important. This includes noticing people’s circumstances or things going on and remembering things they have said on previous visits, particularly their name.

The ‘Bless You’ cards are extremely useful, particularly on a first encounter. People very much appreciate receiving a blessing and are always grateful for the cards. Having a small gift to offer, like a Christmas/Easter card, helps break down barriers.

If a new colleague has joined, or there is a customer in the business, I often get introduced to them and told what I do which is a big help. So, the tattoo artist recently introduced me to one of their clients and explained what I do, so I could engage in conversation with them. I also complimented the work of the artist, which blessed them.

KWM Chaplain

I've been holding some First Encounter sessions with the new interns, all of whom are between 18-24. Because it is a Christian charity, the chaplaincy is somewhat different. We've had a quiz on favourite bible stories: Who is your spiritual hero and what is your favourite worship song? - all to much laughter! We've discussed their gifts and abilities. The interns live and work there for two years and receive training and qualifications in outdoor activities.

KWM Chaplain

What else can I do?

Think of different occupations and pray for the workers.

Join Days of Prayer for specific occupations – teachers, medical workers, media

Commission working members for the living out of their faith at work.

Try a ‘This Time Tomorrow’ interview (www.licc.org.uk/resources/this-time-tomorrow/)

Invite a local KWM Chaplain or Trustee to share in the service

Distribute blessing cards for people to give out to workers during the following week

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[In the News](#)

BBC's Songs of Praise looks at faith in the workplace

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002q7nc>

The “workation” - extending your holiday by working remotely

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2026/jan/08/work-life-balance-britain-embracing-workation>

Loneliness and remote working <https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/why-nearly-40-gen-z-workers-uk-say-working-home-makes-them-lonely-1742119>

[Quotations](#)

“We tend to set up success in Christian work as our purpose, but our purpose should be to display the glory of God in human life, to live a life "hidden with Christ in God" in our everyday human conditions.” [Oswald Chambers](#)

“The only Christian work is good work, well done.” [Dorothy L. Sayers](#)

“When Jesus was interrupted, He started where He was and helped those in need who were nearest to Him. There is always another mission "out there" - the next cause, the next city, or the next country that seems to be the most important mission we could pursue. Jesus illustrates that our greatest mission is often the person in front of us.”

[Dillon Burroughs](#)

[Other Resources](#)

LICC resources for the workplace <https://licc.org.uk/about/work/>

The Evangelical Alliance - living your faith at work

<https://www.eauk.org/assets/files/downloads/Living-for-Jesus-at-work-A5-WEB.pdf>

Theos – Just Work Project <https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/cmsfiles/Just-work-v6-combined.pdf>