Is there a right to work?

For the great majority of people, employment is the most important and often the only source of income. But not just that: work is an essential dimension of human self-realization and participation in society. Conversely, unemployment means more than just the material loss of income. Unemployment often means loneliness, self-doubt, social stigma, and sickness. The social doctrine of the Church therefore speaks about a moral right to work. All societal forces—businesses, labor unions, politics—are under an obligation to promote this right to work and to pursue the goal of full employment of the population.

1. To what extent do people have a right to work?
2. What is the consequence for people who are treated unfairly for their work? Analyse examples from your surroundings.
3. What is the difference between the „first“ and the „second“ labor market? Find out what the „second labor market“ is – would you have some ideas suitable for your country/town/village?
4. How can I help affected people or engage for fair employment?

If in your country unfair wages are paid or jobs are cut, if there is a high youth unemployment, if responsible people are not providing for jobs or people are not allowed to work due to bureaucratic reasons, then write to a politician and ask him, what he is planning to do. Or invite him to your group. Discuss his answers.

Do you take on this challenge?
Nobody should say:  I am not needed...

**PRAY**

Good God, I want to serve and glorify you with all my work, my hands, my head. Accompany my daily efforts so that I feel joy and gratitude for being needed. Encourage also all those who do not find work and provide for men who create work for them or support them in another way. Be also with those who were rejected or have to do degrading work in order to sustain their family. Be their strength and perseverance. Amen.

**CONTEMPLATE**

One person reads the Bible passage aloud.

Short silence.

*Exchange*: What particularly appealed to you?

**STUDY**

1. Read DOCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.

2. Three minutes of silence.

3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.

4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).

**DISCUSS**

*Also discuss your own questions on this topic!*

*Treasure Book*: Take five minutes to write down what you don’t want to forget.

**CHALLENGE**

*Our CHALLENGES are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at feedback@youcat.org.*

*#DOCATChallenge*: Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.

**Deut 15,7**

If one of your kinsmen in any community is in need in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor close your hand to him in his need.

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