

FAITH
DRI>**EN**
ENTREPRENEUR

Excellence
Matters



This guide is intended for personal reflection and to help facilitate a meaningful group discussion. Take a moment to watch the video and read over the guide before your group meeting. Be prepared with some personal examples to help encourage discussion. If helpful, before you meet, print out or email a copy of this guide to all those who will attend the meeting.

Excellence Matters

YOUR BEST AT WORK

Excellence matters. It matters to God. And it matters to each one of us. We want to be and do our very best. It's a Mark of a Faith Driven Entrepreneur that Excellence Matters. Throughout the Bible, we are constantly being shown examples of excellence. Why? Because God does nothing short of excellence himself. Therefore, we should always pursue our very best, too.

Excellence matters. And the more we pursue excellence, the greater influence we have with our peers and in the marketplace. Being excellent at what we do will point back to the one who gave us the ability to do our work. It takes a tremendous amount of self-discipline and hard work, but it will bring glory to God, as well as show those around us the love of Christ.

We can build businesses, provide products and services, and positively influence the world around us not for our personal gain and individual fame, but for the glory of God. As a result, what we produce and the way we treat others in the process reflects a greater and longer-lasting truth about who God is more than anything this world has to offer alone.

Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said:

"If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.'"

As we pursue excellence, it's important that we don't try to win at all costs. Instead, we have to win the right way, to earn the opportunity to encourage others to embrace Jesus' Way.

Excellence matters because you matter to God.



GUIDING SCRIPTURE:

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” —1 Peter 2:9

ACTION	FOCUS	ESTIMATED TIME
Welcome	<p>QUESTION: What burdens are you carrying? What do you need to put aside today to be present and here to support your growth and contribute meaningfully.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 30 seconds around the circle ● Verbalize what to put aside. ● Option to write and put in a basket. 	10 mins
Video Session	<p>INTRODUCTION: Excellence matters. And the more we pursue quality in our work, the greater influence we have with our peers and in the marketplace. But we must be thoughtful and disciplined about the way we get after it.</p>	15 mins
Group Discussion	<p>Our commitment to excellence is what sets us apart, not for our own glory but so that we may direct people’s gaze onto God. Afterall, he is the one who deserves all our praise and worship. The quality of our work is a reflection of God’s glory.</p> <p>Ask each person to share and incorporate any learnings from the video. Here are a few questions to get you started:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Are you driven by the glory of God or the pleasure of people? ● How can you strike a balance between excellence and perfectionism? <p>Facilitator asks if any members would like to share an action they are committing to take this month based on the discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Group members share any practice they would like to start or discontinue in their personal life of business via Zoom chat or post-it note ● Other members agree to pray for and hold them accountable. 	45-60 mins
(Optional) Business Spotlight	<p>One individual presents information on their business venture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One person shares about their business model, stage and scope ● Participants ask questions and get to know more 	10 mins
Prayer	<p>The group wraps in a time of prayer and encouragement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Popcorn prayer—Designate one person to begin the 	10 mins

ACTION	FOCUS	ESTIMATED TIME
	prayer and another person to end the prayer. Then allow space and moments of silence for people to pray as they feel led. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoom rooms or small groups for prayer 	

Discussion Questions

In this session, we learn that our commitment to excellence is what sets us apart, not for our own glory but so that we may direct people's gaze onto God. After all, he is the one who deserves all our praise and worship. Still, this isn't a license for us to strive for excellence at all costs. Here are a few more questions to help your group go even deeper in discussion.

GOD ASKS FOR OUR BEST WORK

We report to a higher authority. And so we seek to serve him with the highest-quality work possible. We can safely assume that no wobbly chairs came out of the carpenter's shop in Nazareth, so we must follow the example of our Savior and seek excellence in every aspect of our daily job.

- **How does planning, professional development, cultural formation, goal setting, execution, and assessment reflect the image of God?**

JOB WELL DONE

Not only does God recognize when something is good—or excellent—he shows appreciation for a job well done by recognizing the very fact that it is just that—a job well done.

- **When did you last create something with such excellence that you could rest and celebrate a job well done?**

EXCELLENCE OFFERS A PLATFORM

Daniel is an example we can aspire to emulate. We're told that he "so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom."

- **How is your work building a platform to proclaim God's glory?**

5 Ideas to Explore the Mark Further

There's no limit to the ways you can explore the Marks of a Faith Driven Entrepreneur. What we provide below are five ideas we think might lead each one of us to an even greater understanding of our God-given call to create.

1. **Journal:** Where does excellence end and perfectionism begin? It's a tightrope we walk everyday as we pursue quality in our work. As soon as this drive to be the best becomes all about us—our reputation, our glory, our name—we run the risk of our work becoming self-gratifying rather than an offering to God. Write about that and what it looks like for you to pursue excellence rather than perfectionism.
2. **Interact:** We believe that we were created in the image of God—a God who worked 6 days and whose work was “good”. We also know that His work continues to this day. This understanding as God's image bearer, together with the gratitude that comes from the gift of life, now and forever, provides us with a nuclear energy source that allows us to strive for, and achieve excellence.
3. **Consider:** Colossians 3:23 and 1 Corinthians 10:31 are both saying similar things – work hard at everything you do in order to bring glory to God. Don't do it to gain worldly recognition. This can apply to a job you may not love or a task you'd rather skip over. You may look at these circumstances as beneath or unworthy of your attention. But in fact, we are called to a greater understanding of work. We need to be working as if God were the owner of our business. And our attention to it is an act of worship to who he is and what he means to us.
4. **Act Differently:** Establish a program for professional development within your company. Go through it yourself. Invite your employees to do the same. What ways can you pursue professional development as a solo-preneur? Never stop learning and growing so you can be the best you can be in your trade, industry, or craft.
5. **Learn From Others:** Visit faithdrivenentrepreneur.org to learn more or join the conversation by listening to our weekly Faith Driven Entrepreneur Podcast.

Entrepreneurs can travel a lonely road. But you're not alone. You're sitting next to a group of like-minded business owners right now. One of the best ways to grow the Faith Driven Movement is to multiply your group.

Is someone in your group ready to raise his or her hand to start a Faith Driven Entrepreneur Group at a local church? Apply at faithdrivenentrepreneur.org/lead-a-group