



How to Take God to Work

Ready to bring God to work? Want to help co-workers find Jesus? What's first? How do you make an impact?

Involvement in Omaha area marketplace groups is growing, and those who want to become more than a "Sunday" Christian are craving practical tips to take without alienating co-workers, getting fired, or watering down their approach. Here are critical starting points.

Your greatest step is to **pray** for God's partnership. Prayer moves mountains. To bring Christ to the workplace, success is about moving mountains. The Enemy has been creative: perceived legal barriers, a population less acquainted with God, and strongholds of power and money.

The Enemy's hold is too great to go it alone. Pray for God's presence in your company. Pray for divine appointments with co-workers. Pray for your company's leaders to act with integrity. Pray also for your second step: finding a **partner** who desires to bring God to your workplace.

The Enemy isolates, overpowers, and demoralizes those on the front lines so others shy away. God will give you the power to overcome with a partner. Plus, your partner provides a sounding board, twice as much energy, and ability to keep you going on tough days.

Finding a partner is easier than it seems. Who has God-related items on the desk? Who mentions church? Who listens to Christian radio? This doesn't guarantee the person is a believer, but there's a good chance. Bring God into a conversation – "Say, I've been wondering where you go to church?" or "Do you ever wonder if God would fit into this company" -- and you'll be surprised. Your ability to start a conversation will open amazing doors.

This gets us to the next critical starting point: **build confidence** that Jesus will see you through. Some are born with that confidence; others need a gentle push. A terrific "push" is through Bill Fay's "Share Jesus Without Fear" study. It makes a compelling case for bringing God into your life seven days a week instead of hiding Him for six and then provides practical perspective for how to bring Jesus into your vocabulary.

While there are formulas for sharing the Gospel, the greatest way to impact lives is to **build relationships**. It's more than discussing the weather, latest sports scores, or work assignments. What's going on in their lives? How do they spend time outside work? How is their spouse? What are their kids doing? What makes them happy, frustrated, motivated? This is real life, and it takes time. God wants you to invest that time with non-believers to impact His kingdom.

After building relationships, **reach out**. You can't miss some opportunities – they're like a cruise ship bearing down on the harbor: a death, a divorce, a job at risk, a high-stress work situation. Bring in God in a soothing way: "I'm so sorry ... God cares ... I care ... How can I help?"

Other opportunities are easier to overlook, like a small floating leaf in the midst of a giant sea: a new movie ("You ever wonder what God would think about that?"), a coworker wishing it was Friday ("Do you think God thinks we're wishing away our lives?"), a simple greeting ("It's a great day for God!"), even my receding hairline ("God must be looking for a few less hairs to count!")

When you reach out for God, find the balance between caring and alienating yourself from those God wants you to impact. Investing for the long-term is better so coworkers see you as genuine.

Finally, **create opportunities**. Is God looking for you to start praying with coworkers? Start a Bible study? Start an accountability group to invest directly in a few coworkers' lives?

Or, does God want you to lead a "helps" project, such as collecting supplies for a homeless shelter, kid's club, school, or other organization in need? You'll show God's love and build relationships at the same time. It's easy along the way to ask, "Doesn't it seem that God is calling us to do something for somebody else?" Imagine where that conversation can go.

Each step requires hearing God. Is this what you want, God? What next? Anything you want me to change? Don't fall into the trap of seeking God's wisdom so much that you can't act. Rarely will God say "Stop!" day after day. That's the Enemy. God's saying, "Start small."

Once you **pray**, **find a partner**, and **develop confidence**, start **building relationships** with coworkers, **reaching out**, and **creating opportunities** for Him.