

Loving Monday

STUDY GUIDE

by *Richard T. Case*

Questions for each chapter have been included in this *Loving Monday* study guide. While these questions can be used for individual study and reflection, the greatest value comes from the rich give-and-take discussion that can happen in a small study group. You might think about forming such a group where you work and studying a chapter each time you get together.

I am indebted that a Colorado businessman, Rich Case, took the initiative to propose and develop these discussion questions. May they enrich your work experience and help you “love Mondays” to the fullest.

—*John Beckett*

CHAPTER I: PETER JENNINGS’S MAGNIFYING GLASS

1. List a few specific ways your basic beliefs have a bearing on the way you go about your work.
2. Would you be excited or troubled if a national TV network wanted to do a story on how your faith relates to the way you do business? Why? If they could speak without restriction to anyone in your company, would they likely find
 - an exciting story of values and faith?
 - a troublesome story of a discrepancy between stated values and management behavior?
 - not much of anything?Describe the likely scenario.
3. Think about some conflicts you routinely face between walking in faith and the practical world of business. Describe one.
4. In what areas of business do you operate as if faith and work were mutually exclusive?
5. Review Nehemiah 2:17-20. Nehemiah was given the task of returning to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity and rebuilding the wall—certainly an ambitious business enterprise.
 - How did he view God’s role in this endeavor?
 - To whom did his team look for their success in completing the wall? Why?
 - How do you think Nehemiah viewed the overlap between his deeply held beliefs and his “business assignment”?

CHAPTER 2: COMPANIONS FOR LIFE

1. Think about your personal history. List a few pivotal points in your life (forks in the road, key decisions, times of difficulty). How have they impacted your life and led you down certain paths to where you are today? Highlight when you came to know Christ as your Lord and Savior. (If

you have not made this sure step of faith, please refer to point 4 on page 190 or pick up Lee Strobel's book *The Case for Christ* for help along your spiritual journey.)

2. Describe your pattern (your regular discipline) of Bible reading and study. Do you consider it a delight, a burden, or is it basically nonexistent? Why?
3. Review 2 Timothy 3:16.
 - How does Paul, the author, describe Scripture?
 - What does this expression "inspired by God" mean to you?
 - Paul outlines why Scripture is useful. State practical examples of what each term means to you:
 - teaching
 - rebuking
 - correcting
 - training in righteousness
 - What do you think is the primary purpose of studying and understanding Scripture?
 - What does it mean that the Bible "thoroughly equip[s] us for every good work"?
 - What is our good work as it relates to business? Think of an example.
 - In what practical ways can we integrate faith into our daily business practices.
 - Why is daily study of the Scriptures so important to this process?

CHAPTER 3: TROUBLE IN CAMELOT

1. Describe a particular time of crisis or trouble that you have experienced along your life's path, especially in your work.
 - How have you responded to such times? Why?
 - What have you learned from crisis or trouble that can help you in the future?
2. Review Psalm 107.
 - Of what kind of troubles does the psalmist speak?
 - In each instance, how did the people get through their trouble?
 - In each instance, what was God's response to their cry for help?
3. Based on these truths, list some specific ways God might want you to respond when you face trouble and stress in your work.

CHAPTER 4: TRIAL BY FIRE

1. Can you recall specific times when trials and difficulties either helped you to develop a dependence on God or caused you to fall into doubt and frustration? Describe one.
2. How would you define *sovereignty*? List a few things you believe about God's sovereignty.
3. Review Romans 8:28.
 - What assurance do we have regarding God's sovereignty?
 - What does this mean about the future of your business?

4. Review James 1:2-8.
 - What should be our attitude toward trials?
 - What are the purposes of trials in our life?
 - How would you describe perseverance? Why is perseverance so important to the development of character?
 - As we are going through trials, in what way does God want us to approach him?

CHAPTER 5: THE INVISIBLE HAND

1. Looking back over your life (refer to your notes from chapter two), describe a few experiences that revealed God's invisible hand at work. Were you able to recognize his activity at the time?
2. What is something you think God is nudging, prodding or encouraging you to do right now? What are your struggles and feelings about this?
3. Review Proverbs 3:5-8.
 - What is the key to understanding God's pathway for your work, career or business?
 - If we are willing to "not be wise in our own eyes" (not assume we know what is best), what are God's promises to us?
4. Are you willing to "let go" and trust your work or your business to God? What is necessary to push through this struggle? Name one area you will "let go of" and entrust to God this week.

CHAPTER 6: STRANGELY WARMED

1. As God is calling you into a fuller relationship with himself, what types of "death" have you personally encountered? (What specific areas, struggles or character issues have a hold on you and keep you from moving on to freedom in the new life God offers?)
2. Review Colossians 3:1-17.
 - On what should our minds be focused? Why?
 - List some of the specific steps these verses tell us to take in order to put to death the parts of our character still belonging to the "earthly nature."
3. In one sentence describe your general perspective on your vocation.
4. List any struggles you may be experiencing between (1) the desire to be serving God in "ministry" activities and (2) understanding the ministry nature of your calling in your work.
5. Would you like to strengthen your commitment to your calling? Perhaps you have doubts about God's purpose for your life in business. If so, you can name those doubts and commit them to God this week.

CHAPTER 7: TWO WORLDS, OR ONE?

1. Name one area where you tend to live in two separate worlds—the spiritual and the secular.

2. Identify the main struggle you face in trying to integrate the two.
3. Review 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12.
 - To what does God call us?
 - Why does he call us to this?
4. How do these verses apply to God's view of the "spiritual" and the "secular"? In what way are his purposes fulfilled by your leading an integrated life of faith at work versus living in two separate worlds?

CHAPTER 8: CULTURE WARS

1. Name a few situations where you see the workplace driven by situational ethics and expediency as opposed to absolute values and moral law.
2. In what ways have ethical dilemmas impacted your own business environment?
3. Review Psalm 19:7-14.
 - How does the psalmist view God's law and absolute values?
 - How does this benefit us?
 - How do we allow "presumptuous sins" (v. 13) to creep into our daily lives?
4. Is the ability to stand up for absolute truths in your business difficult for you? Why or why not?
5. What further steps do you need to take to rethink your perspective on absolute truth and its importance for integration?

CHAPTER 9: A GREEK LEGACY

1. Have you been affected by the dualistic worldview of life and business (promulgated by Greek philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle, and even by Christian theologians such as Augustine and Aquinas), which suggests that it is impossible to serve God by being in business? If so, name one or two specific examples.
2. Describe in one sentence your attitude about being a person called to business.
3. Name two areas (particularly at work) in which you tend to have the worldview of dividing life into two areas—the sacred and the secular.
4. Identify some of the sources for this thinking in your own life.
5. Review John 10:7-10.
 - What happens when we enter through the gate (Christ) into his kingdom?
 - What does this mean to you?
 - When the passage says Jesus has come that you might have life and have it abundantly, what does this mean to you?

- Do you believe Christ wants us to view our abundant life as an integrated whole and not compartmentalized? Why or why not?
- Do you want to take that step of commitment? If so, list one area you will commit to change this week.

CHAPTER 10: A DIFFERENT WINDOW

1. In what way is dualism a hindrance to our internal peace and our effectiveness in life?
2. Review Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 31.
 - What has God created?
 - What does he call them?
3. Review 1 Timothy 4:4-5.
 - What is our response to this view of the world?
4. Review 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22.
 - Reflect on how God wishes us to see and to develop our life as an integrated whole.
5. Review 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24.
 - What is the results of our developing our life in this way?
 - What does all this say about God's worldview for us?
 - What are the implications of these verses regarding how we look at life, particularly our work?
6. How may this worldview change what we think and do at work?
7. Name two benefits you expect from this change.

CHAPTER 11: ENDURING TRUTH

1. Name three enduring qualities that are important to you.
2. In what ways are these qualities challenged by what you encounter in your occupation?
3. Review Daniel 6:1-28.
 - How would you describe Daniel's vocation?
 - Why was he promoted?
 - What were his outstanding qualities?
 - What happened to the "world system" around him?
 - How did Daniel respond?
 - What was the immediate consequence of his taking a stand on principles?
 - What was the long-term result?
 - If Daniel had not been rescued, would the key point of the story change? Why or why not?
4. Name one of Daniel's qualities that is missing in your life. What specific step do you feel you ought to take to build that quality? Commit to taking that step this week.

CHAPTER 12: INFINITE WORTH

1. Describe in a sentence how you tend to regard your employees or coworkers.
2. How would the people in your company describe how they are viewed by the company?
3. Is there a difference between these two perspectives? Why?
4. Review 1 Peter 2:13-17.
 - What do you think is God's will for you?
 - What steps have you taken in the past that have been successful in creating goodwill and showing proper respect to employees in your business? List three creative steps you could take for doing more in this area (specific policies and programs that might better encourage individuals' value and worth).

CHAPTER 13: BLUEPRINTS

1. Identify (in one sentence each) what you believe to be your main calling, gifting and sphere.
2. What steps are you now taking to encourage employees you work with to understand their unique destiny in God? What steps do you see as needed?
3. Name two or three benefits of providing a context for growth and enabling employees to find and fit in with God's design for their lives.
4. Review 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 and Ephesians 4:11-12.
 - How should we view how God has appointed each person?
 - What is your conclusion on the basis of this passage?
 - How does the good of the business benefit from our willingness to see people as uniquely gifted?
5. Name a way you might better promote the process of (1) identifying individuals' abilities and gifts and (2) positioning people accordingly.

CHAPTER 14: TROUBLE, TROUBLE, TOIL & TROUBLE

1. Think of a time when you let anger or pride separate you from a coworker, supervisor, subordinate or someone else in your business—maybe a supplier or customer. What were the causes and how was it resolved? If unresolved, why?
2. What external circumstances threaten your business right now? How are you reacting? What is at the root of your reaction?
3. How might you develop a positive, aggressive response versus a negative, defensive one?
4. Review 1 Samuel 17:1-54.
 - What were the circumstances threatening Israel?

- What was David's response to these circumstances (vv. 26, 29, 32)?
 - What did David reject as the weapons to use in the battle, and with what "core competencies" did David defeat Goliath?
 - What understanding of truth was at the core of David's faith (v. 47)?
 - Give an example of how you might apply this understanding to your circumstances.
5. For further encouragement and discussion, read and meditate on Psalm 112 and 2 Chronicles 20:1-12.

CHAPTER 15: THE COMPASSIONATE ENTERPRISE

1. Name a situation where you had to balance biblical principles of compassion and accountability in your business.
2. Identify two areas where you need to better balance these principles in your work environment. What steps can you take during this week to implement improvement?
3. Review Luke 10:25-37.
 - Why were the priest and the Levite unwilling to help the man in trouble?
 - What was the key difference in the Samaritan?
 - How did the Samaritan respond to what he saw and felt?
4. Name a situation you are facing right now that calls for compassion.
5. How do you currently handle terminations? How might you better use compassion in this process?
6. In what areas might your company extend a compassionate hand to your community? How would your coworkers react to such an initiative?

CHAPTER 16: EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE

1. Think of one possible action you could take in your position that would fall into the category of extraordinary service.
2. Does your organization have a core competency that reflects the biblical mandate of providing extraordinary service? Why or why not?
3. What are some examples? How have they benefited the business?
4. Review Mark 10:35-45.
 - What were the disciples' personal desires?
 - When Jesus called them together for this "group teaching moment," what did he say in regard to their desires?
 - How would you translate this into a principle of developing extraordinary service for your company?

- What programs do you have in place (or need to put in place) to train your people in extraordinary service? If some training is already in place, what results are you seeing?

CHAPTER 17: GIVING SOMETHING BACK

1. In one sentence express what you believe about your company “giving something back.”
2. In one sentence express your definition of, and perspective on, stewardship.
3. Review Deuteronomy 15:7-10, Proverbs 3:9-10 and Malachi 3:10.
 - What attitude does God wish us to guard against?
 - What attitude does he wish us to learn to enjoy?
 - What does God promise as a result of this attitude?
 - What challenge does God offer to us, and what does he promise if we follow through?
4. Name two or three ways you exercise the principle of generosity and maximize the potential of the resources God has entrusted to you.
5. Name one creative way you might utilize your platform in business to impact your various spheres of influence for the kingdom of God. What step can you take now toward this goal?

CHAPTER 18: THE BALANCING ACT

1. In what ways does your business encourage or discourage the balancing of work and family in the following areas?
 - Acclaiming family as a foundational value
 - Affirming priority of family over work
 - Maximizing time spent with family
2. Review Deuteronomy 6:1-9.
 - To what does this passage call us to be obedient?
 - What does this mean?
 - What steps does God expect us to take regarding our obligation to ingrain his principles in our family?
 - What does this mean regarding balancing of work and family?
3. Think about a family-oriented approach you could introduce in your company to promote this value of balance. What would it be?

CHAPTER 19: THE CORPORATE COUNSELOR

1. What role does prayer play in your vocation? in the operation of your business? Are there regular opportunities in your company when corporate prayer might be appropriate for your employees and coworkers? Describe.

2. Do you find it a natural response to go to prayer about your daily business situations, or is it a struggle for you? If a struggle, what steps can you suggest for overcoming it?
3. Name two specific answers to prayer that you have experienced in your business.
4. Review 2 Chronicles 1:7-12 and James 1:5.
 - When Solomon was given the opportunity to ask for anything he wanted, what did he ask for?
 - How did God respond? Why?
 - What should be our continual prayer for our businesses?
 - What should you expect?
5. How might you develop opportunities to pray with others in your company about your business? What is the next step toward achieving this goal?

CHAPTER 20: BUSINESS DIRECTION: VISION

1. In one sentence define your personal “compelling vision.”
2. In one sentence define your company’s “compelling vision.”
3. In what ways do these two statements guide your business?
4. Review Nehemiah 1:1-11; 2:17-18.
 - What was Nehemiah’s compelling vision? Why was it important?
 - How did he go about developing it?
 - How did he communicate it?
 - How did the people respond?
5. If you do not fully understand your company’s compelling vision, how might you develop clarity?
6. Once it is clear to you (or if it is already clear), how might you promote and instill the company’s vision throughout the organization? Why is this so important?

CHAPTER 21: BUSINESS DIRECTION: VALUES

1. List two or three of your company’s core values.
2. In what ways do you presently stimulate your employees to adopt and follow these values? Are further steps needed to do this better? If so, name a couple of steps that would begin the process.
3. How do you receive feedback regarding how well your executives and employees adhere to these values?

4. Review Matthew 7:24-27.
 - What happens to something that is built on shifting, loose material versus something that is built on a solid foundation?
 - What is the reason the strong foundation promotes survival and stability?
 - How is building your business on core values like building on solid rock?
5. Think of a situation that challenged you to maintain your values instead of caving in to expediency. Describe.
6. At this time, what is the more pressing need: for you to reestablish your core values or better promote them? Why?

CHAPTER 22: LOVING MONDAY

1. List the key concepts involved in “loving Monday”—having a fresh zeal for your work. Refer to page 162.
2. Review Deuteronomy 26:16-19 and Joshua 11:15.
 - What did God tell Moses and then Joshua to do?
 - What was God’s promise if they followed through on this?
 - What did they do?
3. Of the concepts listed in question 1, identify one that is presently working well in your life (a success) and one that you are struggling to institute in your life and work.
 - What steps would help you overcome the struggle? Name two.
 - Which step will you take this week?

CHAPTER 23: THE ULTIMATE GOAL

1. In one sentence express God’s ultimate purpose for his people.
2. Review Matthew 6:33-34.
 - What does God wish us to have as our first priority?
 - What does the term *kingdom* mean?
 - How does seeking first the kingdom of God fulfill God’s ultimate purpose?
 - In what practical ways can we seek first the kingdom of God?
 - What is the outcome of seeking God first in all we do?
 - What types of things in our businesses can we count on God taking care of for us?
3. What specific changes in attitude or priorities do you think God is asking you to make for his ultimate purpose? Name one or two, and commit to following through on them.
4. Read over the story of Bud, beginning on page 166. Can you say with confidence that you have entered into a personal relationship with the Lord? If you cannot, you can do that now. With your heart open to receiving God’s salvation, pray this prayer:

I ask forgiveness, Lord Jesus, for being separated from you, and I ask that you help me turn from my old life and come back to you.

I receive you as God's Son, the One who through your death and resurrection gives me new life. Please restore the relationship you have desired for me all along. Be my Lord.

And now, I thank you. Thank you that you hear when I call out to you; that you receive me just as I am. Thank you for allowing me to become your follower and a member of your family. Please give me strength to walk with you each day, and lead my life in ways that are pleasing to you.

Amen.

CHAPTER 24: THE ULTIMATE GOAL

1. Write your definition of the term *ambassador*.
2. Describe being an ambassador for Christ in the larger context of the business world.
3. Review 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.
 - What should be the main motivating factor for everything we do (v. 14)?
 - How are we to view the people around us?
 - What is the purpose of our ministry as ambassadors?
 - As a result of our participation in this process, what will happen to us?
4. In what specific ways do you believe God is calling you to be his ambassador in the job in which he has placed you?
5. What steps might you take to move in this direction?