



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: "Grace at Work" - Ephesians 6:5-9

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

What has been your best experience working for someone else? Why/what happened that made that experience good?

What has been your worst experience working for someone else?

QUICK REACTIONS

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

Dave highlighted 4 principles about work in this passage—

What you do matters less than why you do it.

Who you serves matters more than what you do.

Ultimately, God signs your paycheck

Your title, position, authority does not impress God.

1. Agree/Disagree
2. Which principle do you need to make your own in your workplace or school? Why?
3. In what way can you begin to see your work as your ministry?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Ephesians 5:21-33]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.)

Why did Paul tell slaves to obey their masters "with respect and fear"? (6:5)

What did Paul tell slaves to do? (6:5-8)

What responsibilities did slaves have to their masters? (6:5-8)

In what way, given the circumstances of the first century was Paul trying to elevate the work and status of a slave? (6:5-8)

How could slaves serve the Lord while working for their masters? (6:5-8)

With what attitude should the slave serve his master? (6:7)

What reward for Christian service could the slave expect? (6:7-8)

What directives did Paul give masters? (6:9)

Why did Paul warn those in charge against abusing slaves? (6:9)

How does God view rank, title or social status? (6:9)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

Why did Paul call slaves to obey and not to revolt? How is our modern-day system different? What is not different in our modern world? When and how should Christian's work for social justice?

How did Paul's words for employees and employers relate to the teaching in the rest of his letter to the Ephesians? (Consider, marriage, parents, children)

How does God want us to treat people who may be in authority over us? Why?

How does God want us to conduct ourselves if we are in authority over others? Why?

As Christians, what are some situations, circumstances we should not continue to work in or submit to an employer's demands?

How does God want us to treat all people with whom we work?

What importance do you attach to rank, title or social status?

What importance should we attach to rank, title or social status?

What attitude, motive about your work needs to change as a result of this passage?

Fill in the blank—

In order for me to "work with enthusiasm, as though I was working for the Lord", I will need to _____.

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?