

Leader Guide

LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK 2.18.2018

Quick Review

1. Based on what you heard in Mark's message, how do the principles of Colossians 3:22-4:1 relate to the employee / employer relationship found in the work place?

My Story

1. Describe a time when you put your best effort into something. What was your motivation?
2. Do you recall a time when you were treated unfairly? How was it resolved? What role did God play in helping you work toward peace about the situation?

Digging Deeper

1. Do you agree with the following statement: The gospel transforms our perspective and attitudes about work. In answering the question consider Ephesians 2:8-10.

Timothy Keller believes that since the gospel has changed us, it fundamentally changes how we think about our work. "We [Timothy Keller and Katherine Leary Alsdorf in *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work*] have said that the gospel replaces the story that animates our work, it alters our conception of what work is, and it reorients the ethical compass we use for work." Pp. 235-236. Lead a discussion on how the gospel animates, alters, and reorients our work because of the gospel. As a leader you may want to direct people to discussing how Christian values change how you treat others at work. You may point people to areas of Mark's sermon where he discusses that we appreciate our work because God designed work for his glory.

2. Read through the book of Philemon and discuss Paul's perspective on the employee and employer relationship (slave and slave owner). Identify Paul's central argument(s) to Onesimus. What do we learn about the transformative power of the gospel and its impact on the employee/employer relationship?
3. Read Col. 3:1; 3:22- 4:1, and Eph. 5:5-9. How does the relationship between employee and employer display a sense of equality, dignity, and respect according to these passages. What does this mean for Christians operating in the work place?
4. According to the passages in question #3, what is the main reason why an employee and employer are to honor one another? Talk about how this motivation will influence how you function in the work place.

Leaders, point people toward the numerous references about the Lord, Christ, and Master. A secondary motivation is alluded to in Col. 3:24.

Taking it Home

1. If you are business owner or if you oversee others in the work context, how can you display justness, fairness, and respect toward an employee this week?
2. If you are an employee or under the direction of someone's supervision, how can you begin to shift your service to the "company" (or your boss) to be about service for Christ?
3. How will you live out your faith at work this week? How can you be a better employer or better employee based on what you learned in Mark's message or this study?