



EPHESIANS 6:5-9

GETTING STARTED...

We spend around 90,000 hours of our lives at work. Around a third of our lifetime is spent at work, making money. Does that time matter to our spiritual lives or is it all a waste? While we don't often think about our work in spiritual terms, for the Christian, there is no such thing as "secular" work. All of our work is done unto Christ, which is exactly what Paul reminds the church about. We are work as if we are working for God himself. God created us to work, to reflect him as we work, and to show what Jesus is like in how we treat those in authority over us and how we use our authority over others. All of life is for God's glory!

READ THE TEXT: EPHESIANS 6:5-9

⁵ Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. ⁹ Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What is commanded to servants and masters in this passage? Identify the reasons given for each command.
2. Verse 8 promises rewards for those who do good. How does that fit together with salvation by grace through faith? (Eph 2:4-10)

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

- Agassiz* In your current work, school, or daily responsibilities, what would it look like to serve with a sincere heart “as to the Lord and not to man”? Are there areas where your attitude or motivation needs a reset? How might viewing your daily tasks—big or small—as worship change the way you approach them this week? Can you think of a time when you felt like your work truly honored God? Whether you lead a team, a family, or a friend group, how can you reflect Christlike humility and servant-hearted leadership in your sphere of influence?
- Chilliwick* Consider the 4 ways in which Paul directs bondservants to obey their masters. Which one of these is the most difficult to adhere to and why might that be? How does this directive transform the slave/master relationship? How might it transform our work and workplace relationships? Have you ever considered a heavenly reward for the good you accomplish in this life? How does that idea transform your day to day life?
- Harrison/Lake Errock* Paul's call for masters to also treat and view their servants as they would Christ would have been radically counter-cultural. While we live in a very different context, we can still easily view those who are less privileged socio-economically as being inferior to us. Do you ever treat certain people as less important than you? How might you value even the “least of these” as you would Jesus?
- Promontory* How does seeing God's intention for work help us understand this part of our lives? How can you show what Christ is like in your work this week? If you have a boss, what is a Christ-like way of responding to them? If you are in charge of others, how can you lead them with a servant attitude? How does being filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18) change how you will work this week?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer?
An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*"Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them." - Psalm 111:2*