



Grace Group Guide



United Purpose: Together we will designate time and place to deepening our desire for God, caring for and urging each other to action!

United Actions: WL Groups...

- Scripture:** Be in the Word together
- Encouragement:** One another each other
- Prayer:** With and for each other and the lost
- Accountability:** Now What? Put it into action!



-Ice Breaker-

- What was your first ever job? How was it? What did you learn from that job?
- How do you live out your faith at work?
 - **Transition:** Work matters! We learn new skills, build relationships with others, provide for our families, and, hopefully, reflect the love of Christ to our bosses, co-workers, customers, etc. Today, we will wrap up our series on relationships by looking at what Paul has to say to masters and slaves, and we'll draw out some principles that apply to our work situations.

-Discussion-

Read Col. 3:22-4:2, Eph. 5:5-9

- What does Paul tell slaves to do? And why?
 - **Possible Answers:**
 - Obey their masters...
 - Not only when they're looking, but with sincerity
 - Out of reverence for Christ
 - Work hard at everything, as if working for the Lord...
 - Knowing that you will receive a reward from the Lord
- What does Paul tell masters to do? And why?
 - **Possible Answers:**
 - Treat slaves justly and fairly...
 - Because you have a Master as well.
- If you had to summarize what both slaves and masters are told to do in one sentence, what would you say?
 - **Possible Answer:** They are to view one another as fellow servants of Jesus Christ, and to treat one another that way as they work.
- What do these passages have to say about the significance of our work? Why does work matter?
 - **Possible Answer:** Work matters because everything we do is, ultimately, an act of service to Christ our heavenly master.

Read Col. 4:7-9, Philemon 8-21

- **Leader Note:** Onesimus, who is mentioned here in Colossians and in Philemon, was a slave. Looking at both passages gives us a fuller view of Paul's perspective on slavery. The key is that slaves and masters are now part of the one family of God, and that changes everything. Their identity is no longer determined by economic or social status, but by their union with Christ (see Col. 3:11).

-Reflection-

- Do you recognize the spiritual significance of your work? Do you view it as an act of service to Christ? Why or why not? Why can it be hard to see this?
 - **Leader Note:** Because of this passage, we know that EVERY job has spiritual significance. Some in your group may struggle to see that, but it's true!

- Does your work life reflect the standard set by Paul here?
 - Consider how you view your coworkers, boss, customers, etc.
 - Consider how much effort you put into your work.
- What are some good examples you've seen of people living out their faith in the workplace like Paul describes here?

-Application-

- If you have been convicted of sin in this area, take time to pray and confess that sin to the Lord. And ask him to give you the right perspective about your work. Consider making this a daily prayer before work.
- Come up with one or two things that you could do this coming week to live this out.

-Pray-

- Pray for your boss, your coworkers, customers, etc.
- Ask the Lord to help you have the right perspective about your work this week.