

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments, as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Ephesians – “The depth of God’s grace lived out in love.”

Ephesians 6:5-9

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.

3 – Questions from Sunday’s Sermon

- **What is a Bondservant?**
- **What is the Conduct of a Godly Bondservant?**
- **What is the Conduct of a Godly Master?**

Read Eph. 6:5-9

I. What is a Bondservant?

- What does the word “Bondservant” mean? Why is Bondservant a good translation even though the Greek word means slave?
- What are some differences between slavery in Paul’s context and American slavery?
- Why should Christians oppose slavery?
- Why do you think the Bible allowed slavery in the N.T. context?
- How does Paul undermine slavery in the following verses?
 - Ephesians 6:9
 - Galatians 3:28
 - Philemon 8-16

- How does the Bible as a whole undermine slavery?
- How can the Bible both allow slavery and undermine slavery at the same time?
- **Read and discuss** the following quote.
 - Although slavery is not uniformly condemned in either the Old or New Testament, the sincere application of New Testament truths has repeatedly led to the elimination of its abusive tendencies. Where Christ's love is lived in the power of the Holy Spirit, unjust barriers and relationships are inevitably broken down. As the Roman empire disintegrated and eventually collapsed, the brutal, abusive system of slavery collapsed with it – due in great measure to the influence of Christianity. In more recent times the back of the black slave trade was broken in Europe and America due largely to the powerful, Spirit-led preaching of such men as John Wesley and George Whitefield and the godly statesmanship of such men as William Wilberforce and William Pitt. – **John MacArthur**

II. What is the Conduct of a Godly Bondservant?

- **Read Ephesians 6:5-8.** How does Paul teach slaves to work? Which of these points impacted you the most?
- What motivations did Paul give servants for obeying their masters? How can these motivations help us be better employees?
- Specifically, and practically, what can you do to be a better employee/employer this week?
- **Read Ephesians 6:6.** What does “eye-service” and “people-pleasing” mean? Why are we tempted to work the way of “eye-service” or “people-pleasing”?
- According to verse 6 what is the opposite of “eye-service” or “people-pleasing”?
- **Read Ephesians 6:8** what is the proper motive to working hard with a godly conduct according to this verse? What does the word “knowing” in verse 8 imply?
- Is reward a proper motivation to be obedient to God? Read the following verses to help answer this question.
 - Read Hebrews 11:6
 - Read Hebrews 11:24-26

- Read Hebrews 12:1-2
- How should the idea of a Godly reward motivate us as employees and employers?

III. What's the Conduct of a Godly Master?

- In Ephesians 6:9 what does the word "same" refer to?
- Why do you think Paul specially tells masters to stop threatening?
- What does it mean that God doesn't show partiality? Read the following verses to help answer this question. How do these verse help teach us how to treat other people?
 - Romans 2:9-11
 - James 2:1-5
 - Colossians 3:22
- How should this passage influence the way we work? Explain.
- How should this passage influence the way we relate to people? Explain
- How should this passage change the way we evaluate what's important? Explain.
- How is Jesus both the obedient Servant and the best Master?

Pray for each other's work situations. Pray for your superiors. Pray for your own heart as you seek to apply this passage.