

Growth Group Leader's Guide

For the Week of April 18-24, 2010
"Why Am I Here?"

Announcements:

- Since this is the first week of the Spring Quarter, make sure that new people are introduced to the rest of the group.
- Take some time to introduce the Growth Group Covenant and have group members begin to give input on the values that are important to the success of the group (i.e. punctuality, commitment to attend, confidentiality, etc.)
- Announce the All Church Prayer and Praise Night - Monday, May 3rd at 7 p.m. Encourage your entire group to come to this important night of prayer for our church family. Emphasis will be on asking God to supernaturally provide people with jobs, financial resources, and physical healing.
- Please email your attendance and a brief summary of your meeting each week to pastorlarry@ccsalem.org.

Homework:

Before your Growth Group meets, take about 20 minutes on your own to complete the following...

What do the following scriptures say about the value and purpose of work?

Genesis 2:2-3,15; Colossians 3:22-24; Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:10

Growth Group Discussion Questions:

The following questions are to be discussed when your Growth Group meets this week.

My Story: How satisfied/dissatisfied are you with your job right now? Why?

(Remind people that being a student, a stay-at-home mom or dad, or volunteering, could also be considered a "job.")

Digging Deeper: Read Ephesians 6:5-9

1. What does verse 5 tell us about how we are to relate to our supervisors/employers?

(Note: The "slave/master" terminology is the same as our "employee/employer" language. We are to obey our supervisors as if we are obeying Christ, showing them respect and obeying their orders with a willing and sincere heart)

2. What do verses 6-7 say is the goal of our work?

(We are to work as if we are working for the Lord, doing His will)

3. How does verse 8 help you excel and endure in your work situation?

(Our earthly rewards from our employer are secondary to our heavenly reward from the Lord. Therefore, we should do our best, work with excellence, and even endure any injustices, difficulties, and challenges, knowing that He is watching and will reward us accordingly).

4. What does verse 9 have to say to Christian bosses/employers?

(Christian bosses/employers should treat their employees with respect and fairness, not threatening them, because Jesus is Master of both employer and employee)

Living It:

1. When did you first experience someone close to you dying? Describe your emotions and thoughts during that time. Did that experience change your view of life at all? How?

(Encourage group members to reflect on how the reality of death impacts how we live our lives)

2. Solomon spoke about life, work, and death from an "under the sun" perspective. How does knowing God who is "above the sun" change your perspective on life, work, and death?

(If there is no hope of life after death, then everything on earth becomes meaningless. For the believer, we are to live our lives "under the sun" with an "above the sun" eternal perspective. It should change our values and our reason for living)

3. What changes (in your thinking or actions) do you need to make in the way you do your work so that it is an expression of your worship to God?

(Make sure that you take some time to pray for each other's "job" situation. Pray that we would all see our work as a platform for worshiping and glorifying God - working with excellent actions, attitudes, and motives)