

DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOW TO SERVE CHRIST AT WORK

1 Timothy — Week 20

ICEBREAKER: What is the first movie you saw in a theater?

OVERVIEW: Most of us will spend a large portion of our lives at work. Since we were created to love and serve God, it is essential that we think through how to love and serve God on the job. But this can be difficult. Sometimes we work for cruel bosses and are surrounded by immoral coworkers. Sometimes the quickest way to succeed on the job would be to do something sinful. In this discussion we will go deeper with the call to serve Christ not just at home or at church, but at work. (If you are a student, you may substitute “school” for “work,” since that is your job right now.)

1. Read 1 Timothy 6:1-2. What insight, principle, or observation from this week-end’s message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday’s message?)
2. What would you say to someone who criticizes the Bible for approving of slavery?
3. What does the New Testament teach that makes it impossible to use the Bible to support the African slave trade?
4. The first principle about serving Christ at work is to respect your boss. 1 Timothy 6:1 says, “All who are under the yoke as slaves must regard their own masters to be worthy of all respect, so that God’s name and His teaching will not be blasphemed.” To honor or respect someone is to treat them as highly important, and valuable, and precious. To treasure them. To esteem them highly. To give them great respect. Who is your boss, and describe what it might look like to respect them in this way?

5. 1 Timothy 6:1 says that we must regard our masters as worthy of all respect. What are all the different ways that you can respect your boss?
6. When should you not respect your boss?
7. The second principle about serving Christ at work is to work even harder if your boss is a Christian. 1 Timothy 6:2 says, “Those who have believing masters should not be disrespectful to them because they are brothers, but should serve them better, since those who benefit from their service are believers and dearly loved.” Why do you suppose that Paul needed to emphasize this point?
8. What are some practical ways that you can work even harder and serve your boss better if he is a Christian?
9. Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. How can you better glorify God at work?
10. What is the biggest challenge to serving Christ at your job? What are some practical steps you can take to overcome this challenge?

The Last Word: The purpose of your life at work is to show how Christ is at work in your life.