

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

*Slaves, Obey Your Human Masters*  
Colossians — Week 34

**ICEBREAKER:** What is a good thing happening in your life right now? What makes it good?

**OVERVIEW:** Slavery is one of the most painful and controversial subjects. The sin of slavery in our nation's past continues to cause problems for us today. At first glance, it doesn't seem like the Bible provides any help. Why did God allow slavery in ancient Israel? Why doesn't the New Testament clearly and strongly condemn slavery? Does the Bible endorse slavery? In this discussion we will answer these questions and more, as well as go deeper with how to live for Christ at work.

1. **Read Colossians 3:22.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend'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 was different about slavery in the Old Testament and slavery in the antebellum south?
3. Why doesn't the New Testament condemn slavery?
4. What New Testament teachings prove that the Bible does not endorse the kind of slavery practiced in the antebellum south?

5. What would you say to someone who is struggling to believe in God and trust in the Bible because of its teachings on slavery?
6. Read Colossians 3:22-4:1. List the commands found in this passage. List the truths found in this passage.
7. How can Christians glorify God at work?
8. How does Colossians 3:22-4:1 help us to overcome some of the challenges Christians face at work?
9. Does living for Christ at work conflict with rising up the ladder and succeeding at work?

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