

JOB AND EMPLOYER

God will lead you to use your position within the workplace as a mission field to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Your job gives you the opportunity to build relationships with people that you would not normally have contact with. It is essential to your spiritual growth that you understand this area of responsibility in accordance with the word of God.

The key word of this lesson is:

OPPORTUNITY

The key question this lesson answers:

What should my attitude be toward my job and my employer?

The key purpose of this lesson:

To help you be the type of employee or employer that God would have you to be in order to accomplish his mission in your workplace.

The key point of this lesson:

You should view your job as a mission field where God has placed you for his service and glory.

MEMORY VERSES:

“And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

– **Mark 10:44-45**

*“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.” – **Colossians 3:23***

GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO HIS WORK

It is important to understand that God's calling in your life is not to a specific occupation, but rather to his work. God has given you the ministry of reconciling the world to Christ, and your employment is only one way in which you are to help fulfill that ministry.

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." – 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

A. Your true calling and vocation is to serve Jesus Christ with all of your life.

Ephesians 4:1

B. God expects you to be involved in his work of reaching the lost of this world with the gospel.

Luke 19:10; Luke 10:1-2

C. God has called and commanded you to live a life that is committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20

DISCUSSION:

Which holds the greatest priority in your life today, your job or the work of the Lord?

How are you currently laboring in God's harvest?

Does the task of reaching the world with the gospel overwhelm you?

THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON!

You should view your job as a mission field where God has placed you for his service and glory. By being there, you are to be in contact with people who need a relationship with Jesus Christ. When you view your job as a mission field, you are less likely to be dissatisfied or discontent with your job. God places you in the midst of lost people as a light in a dark world to represent Jesus Christ. Your primary focus is more on the people you are ministering to than on the individual job responsibilities you have.

Matthew 5:14-16

YOUR JOB IS A MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

- A. Your co-workers are probably the greatest exposure you have to the lost.**
You must understand that lost people do not naturally seek after God.

Romans 3:10-11

- B. Your co-workers have the opportunity to observe your life as a daily testimony of God's grace and love.**

Your life may be the only true witness of Jesus Christ that your co-workers may ever see.

Titus 2:12; Philippians 2:12-16

DISCUSSION:

Do you view your job as a mission field, or simply as a way to get a paycheck?

Are you seeking opportunities to share the gospel with your co-workers?

Do your co-workers know that you are a Christian?

YOUR JOB PROVIDES FOR YOUR MINISTRY

- A. Your first ministry is to your family.**

It is your responsibility to earn an honest living to provide resources for your household.

1 Timothy 5:8; 2 Thessalonians 3:10

- B. Your second ministry is to your church family.**

Earning an honest living allows you to have the resources to minister to your spiritual family.

Galatians 6:10

- C. Your third ministry is to reach the lost with the gospel.**

Your honest living provides you with the resources to invest in people with the gospel.

1 Thessalonians 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:8-9

DISCUSSION:

Is your job providing for the needs of your family?

What are some ways that you can use your resources to get the gospel to the lost?

WHAT KIND OF EMPLOYEE SHOULD YOU BE?

A. You are to serve in the workplace as if Jesus Christ is your employer.

Regardless of the work day stresses, you have a responsibility to always reflect the light of Jesus Christ.

“Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, feating God: and whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;” – Colossians 3:22-23

B. You are to do your best and work hard so that your employer is successful.

The company you work for does not exist in order to provide you a job; it must maintain a profit in order for you to remain employed. God will work through you to bless your employer materially, and he will work through you to minister spiritually to you co-workers.

*“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”
– Ecclesiastes 9:10*

C. You are to focus on your own work and not the work of others.

Do not allow someone else’s errors and poor work habits to affect you so that you are free to be a good witness of Jesus Christ by both your word and life.

“And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.” – 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

D. You are to have a healthy respect for the company and its leaders.

“Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.” – Titus 2:9-10

1. Respect your employer’s authority – “not answering again”

Choosing to submit to your employer’s authority, even in the midst of disagreement, will allow you the opportunity be a testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Respect your employer’s property – “not purloining”

Take care of your company’s property, and do not take property that does not belong to you.

3. Respect your employer’s time – “shewing all good fidelity”

Be faithful to do your work with diligence throughout your scheduled shift.

DISCUSSION:

Do you find it difficult to submit to your employer like Jesus?

Are you the hardest working employee at the company you work for?

How is your testimony of Jesus affected by the type of employee you are?

WHAT KIND OF EMPLOYER SHOULD YOU BE?

A. Set fair and equal expectations for your employees.

Set the same standards for all of your employees and then demonstrate that you are willing to keep those same standards.

*“And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons.”
– Ephesians 6:9*

B. Give your employees fair and equal wages in relation to their responsibilities.

Do not be so consumed with the success of your business or your own self-interests that you neglect to consider your employees’ needs. When you value the needs of your employees, they are much more likely to respond by valuing your leadership and your company.

“Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.” – Colossians 4:1

C. Always maintain the attitude of a servant.

You are to lead your employees, not rule over them. You are responsible to lead your employees to faith in Jesus Christ as well as to have success in business.

“But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister; And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” – Mark 10:42-45

DISCUSSION:

Do your employees know what you expect from them?

Is your leadership giving your employees the opportunity to see Jesus Christ in you?

YOU WILL ENCOUNTER CONFLICT IN YOUR JOB

A. Your job may conflict with your spiritual priorities.

This is a conflict that requires you to seek God's guidance in balancing your priorities. You cannot abandon your job, or take off of work for a few minor conflicts; however, you should not use your job as an excuse to neglect your church or spiritual life.

Proverbs 11:1; James 1:8

B. Your job may conflict with Biblical principles.

There may be times when your employer requests you to do something that is contrary to the word of God. You must make a biblical decision to do what is right, and guard yourself against the temptation to be influenced by sinful activities and attitudes around you.

Ephesians 5:3-12

C. You may have conflict with your co-workers.

While your co-worker may not be a believer, you should follow both biblical principles of dealing with conflict as well as any policy that your company requires. You must choose to be blameless and humble in any situation that requires conflict resolution.

Matthew 18:15-17

D. You may encounter conflict through persecution.

Many times persecution in the workplace is nothing more than the result of a believer's improper walk with the Lord. However, there will be some times when the opposition you face is because you are truly living for Christ. The proper response to persecution is to commit the adversity to the Lord and respond to it in a blameless manner.

1 Peter 2:18-23; 3:16-17

E. You may have conflict because of an opportunity to advance in your career.

God can use your higher position and larger wage for his glory. However, more money or a better position are not always what is best for you. Any new responsibility may become a burden on your time and hinder your service to Jesus Christ. It is important to be sure that you are able to be faithful with the greater responsibility, and that you will not allow yourself to become too busy.

Luke 16:10-12; James 3:1

DISCUSSION:

Are you experiencing a conflict with a co-worker at your job?

Have you ever had to choose between serving the Lord or serving your job?

ARE YOU CONSIDERING NEW EMPLOYMENT?

A. Have you prayed and sought the Lord's direction?

God will reveal His plan to you through the Word of God and prayer. It may be a good idea to write down how God is leading you so that you are able to go back and review it.

James 1:5

B. Have you sought counsel from a mature believer?

Seeking out or pursuing a new job can be a very complex issue. It is wise to seek biblical counsel from another mature believer who you respect.

Proverbs 11:14

C. How will this new employment opportunity affect your family?

Many times, our jobs will affect some of the time we are able to invest in our families. However, some jobs require a large amount of time that hinders you from having a relationship with your spouse and children.

Proverbs 27:23

D. How will this new job opportunity affect what God is doing in your life?

There are jobs that will, at times, conflict with your ability to make disciples and minister through your local church. It is important to understand that God will not lead you to a job where that conflict is consistent or constant.

2 Timothy 2:4

E. Are you avoiding something you should be facing and trying to correct?

God will often use difficult situations to teach you biblical truths and strengthen your faith in him. If you are experiencing conflict in the work place, it is best to try to resolve that conflict before seeking new employment opportunities. Most problems are not eliminated simply by changing your circumstances.

Matthew 5:23-25

F. Will this new employment opportunity cause you to seek a new local church?

If your new job is leading you to move to another location, then one of your first priorities must be to find another local church to minister through. Review the lesson on finding a good disciple-making local church.

DISCUSSION:

How does your current job affect your time with your family and ministry?

Did you seek God's leading and Biblical counsel when applying for your current job?

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. What is the work that God has called all believers to?

2. List the three ministries that your job provides for.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

3. Describe in your own words what kind of employee you should be.

4. What is the most important attitude an employer or supervisor should have?

5. List three examples of the types of conflict you might encounter in the workplace.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

6. List three things you should consider when seeking new employment.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

7. What is the key purpose of the lesson, and what has it taught you?

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Read *Acts 18:1-5* and *Acts 20:33-35*. The Apostle Paul made tents for a living, and he used his job as a tool for ministry. What principles have you learned from these passages that you will apply to your job?

Read the following verses and write down what the bible says about individuals who choose to be lazy and have no work ethic.

Proverbs 18:9

Proverbs 21:25

Proverbs 19:15

Proverbs 22:13

Proverbs 20:4

Proverbs 26:14

Read *Daniel 6*. In this chapter, Daniel is one of the presidents within the kingdom of the Medes and Persians. What was the main conflict Daniel faced within this chapter? What was Daniel's response? How did Daniel's decision affect the king and the kingdom?

Read *Genesis 39*. Joseph was sold as a slave to Potiphar. What does this passage say about Joseph's character? How did Joseph respond to temptation?
