

Small Group Lesson – Week of April 24, 2022
It's My Pleasure (Ephesians 6:5-9 NLT)

Introduction:

Share with the group a time when you had difficulty serving a boss with respect and sincerity. How were you able to work through that situation?

Ephesians 6:5-9 (NLT)

⁵Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ. ⁶Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. ⁷Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. ⁸Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free. **⁹Masters**, treat your slaves in the same way. Don't threaten them; remember, you both have the same Master in heaven, and he has no favorites.

Going Deeper Study Questions:

- What should the Christian servant's (or Christian employee's) attitude be toward his master (or employer)?
- How should the Christian servant view his work? Ultimately, for whom is he working?
- How should bondservants serve the Lord while working for their masters? (6:5-8)
- What promise and assurance does Paul give to the Christian servant (employee)? (6:8)
- What instruction does the apostle give to Christian masters (employers)? (6:9, see also Colossians 4:1).

Application Questions:

- How can you live out this Scripture passage in your workplace? What would it look like to "work for Christ" in your workplace?
- How can you improve your attitude toward someone you work with or for?
- How can you keep your heart engaged in work you don't particularly like?
- How do you treat people who service your car, check out/carry out your groceries, take your order at a restaurant, collect your trash, deliver your mail, etc.?
- How can you remember to serve all people whole-heartedly, as if you were serving the Lord?
- How can you approach your bosses and leaders with a godly attitude? How can you show your leaders respect even if they are not fair or kind?

Pray for One Another:

- How can our group pray for you as a result of our discussion?
- Pray for one another that we would honor the Lord in our places of employment.
- Pray for specific work issues that you need to resolve with your employer.

Assignment:

- Share with a friend or family member your biggest take-away from this passage.
- Whatever your job situation may be, make an effort to live out this passage this week by....
- If you have authority in your workplace, remember to treat your employees with respect and kindness.