

STUDY GUIDE F O R SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORKPLACE

Chapter Five: Trimming the Lamps

Groundwork

Read Chapter Five

What new insights, if any, did you receive from reading Chapter Five?

Write the names of Christians you contact in connection with your work (co-workers, supervisors, clients, customers, vendors, etc.):

Groupwork

Read Exodus 27:20-21;
30:7-8; Leviticus 24:1-4

To keep them burning and spreading light, the lamps in the Old Covenant Tabernacle required what? Who was responsible for providing what they required?

To whom is Peter writing in the verses to the left?

Read I Peter 2:5, 9

In the New Covenant, who is included in the "holy" and the "royal" priesthood?

Read Luke 12:35

Jesus' words, "...keep your lamps burning..." imply what danger?

*Give me oil in my lamp,
keep me burning.
Give me oil in my lamp,
I pray.
Give me oil in my lamp,
keep me burning.
Keep me burning
'til the break of day.
(from an old song)*

How can the lamp-trimming work of the Old Covenant priests help us see our roles as New Covenant priests in our workplaces?

From the book, read the bottom paragraph on p. 47 through the middle of p. 48.

How do we sometimes exclude other believers from our fellowship because they don't fit our "mold" for what Christians ought to believe or do? Support your answer with specific examples.

Sample "fruit questions":

- How do they treat the name of Jesus?
- What is the basis of their hope?
- How do they respond to "nobodies"?
- Do they forgive when wronged?

Read the bulleted points to the left. What additional "fruit questions" do you believe would help you identify other believers in your workplace? (Jot them down and share them.)

Within a typical local church, how have our traditions taught us to think "programmatically" when it comes to serving our fellow believers?

Testimony from a Communications Manager for a state-run college savings plan:

"A delightful part of my work is the way Christians encourage each other. Several have knocked on my door and asked if I could pray with them about something, because they sense I trust God. [They] have also encouraged me when I hear them witness or when they offer to pray with me in tough times."

In contrast to the programmed approach, how do opportunities to serve fellow believers typically present themselves in your workplace? (Illustrate with specific examples.)

In your own words, summarize two "non-programmed" opportunities for Daniel to serve fellow believers in his workplace.

Daniel 1:5-20 _____

Daniel 2:1-48. _____

From the book (p. 51): "What are some of the different forms that service [to other believers] may take on the job?"

The New Testament includes a great variety of "one another" verses that describe how we are to serve other believers. The book (pp. 51 - 55) includes these examples. Can you think, for each one, how you might carry it out for the Christians in your work network?

Self-giving love. _____

Forgiveness. _____

Listening. _____

Prayer. _____

Bringing back strays. _____

Encouragement. _____

Example-setting. _____

Allowing others to serve us. _____

From the book (pp. 56-57).

If you know one, describe a believer who has had an influence on you similar to the one described in the last four paragraphs of Chapter Five.

Heartwork

Gal 4:19-20. "My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you..."

Share with your study group how the Lord has spoken to you through the discussion of this chapter.

Ask the Lord in prayer to form Christ in you and to give you the power to turn what most people call "secular" work into a real ministry that includes serving fellow believers.