

STUDY GUIDE F O R SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORKPLACE

Chapter Four: The Daily Grind

Groundwork

Read Chapter Four.

Chapter Four says God is aiming to carry out at least three purposes by sending you into the daily grind of the workplace. Summarize those three purposes:

Romans 12:2. "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed. . . ."

1. _____
(see pp. 38-40)
2. _____
(see pp. 40-43)
3. _____
(see pp. 43-45)

II Corinthians 3:18. "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed. . . ."
Read Chapter Four

What questions did Chapter Four raise in your mind that you'd like to discuss with the group?

1. _____ (p. ____)
2. _____ (p. ____)
3. _____ (p. ____)

Groupwork

From the book: "While we may to have our work used in changing the lives of others, God is eager first to change our own lives through our work."

In the left column, read the quotation from the book. If God has spoken to your own heart along these lines, tell how he brought you to this realization.

- ✓ The work itself
- ✓ Management
- ✓ Co-workers
- ✓ Clients/Customers
- ✓ Other

List some of the most frequent and difficult workplace pressures you face that arise from the sources listed in the left column:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- *Matthew 16:24*
- *Mark 8:34*
- *Luke 9:23*
- *Romans 8:13*
- *Colossians 3:5*
- *Galatians 5:24*

What common theme do you discover in the Scripture references to the left?

What sentence from the book best expresses this theme?

From your own experience (present or past) tell of a time when circumstances in the workplace presented you with the opportunity to put the self-life to death.

Read aloud: Judges 7:8-21, the story of Gideon's battle against Midian.

As Gideon's men neared the enemy camp, what effect did the soldiers' jars have on the light from the torches?

IN BROKENNESS YOU SHINE

*Your beauty shines
Your love surrounds
Where cries of brokenness
Are found bring hope alive
Help me believe
And trust You one more
time
In brokenness You shine
In brokenness You shine
(from a song by Steve Green)*

When they broke the jars, what did the Midianites see?

How does the book apply the analogy between Gideon's jars and our natural selves?

Tell how you believe God is using workplace stresses and blows to make you more light-permeable.

The book mentions a few examples of how God tested people in Bible days. List other biblical instances in which God put his people to the test.

From the book: *Our occupations are often used by God as testing grounds* (p. 45).

Do you agree that God still tests his people, as stated in the quotation from the book to the left? If so, explain why God uses work situations to test us.

Describe what you believe is a test that God sent through your work.

"I see my role more and more as being open with people, being honest about how I live my life, and sharing how I work through things that stress me—such as when the money taps out or my kids cause me concern. Believers and unbelievers have said, 'I can't believe the way you're holding up.' And I can answer, 'If I didn't trust God, I would not be able to do this.'"

(from a workplace testimony)

Tell of any example you may have seen in which the way a believer met job-related tests were used by God to speak to unbelievers. (See example to the left.)

Heartwork



"Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors."

(James 1:2, The Message)

Meditate on the analogy of lens-grinding in the last paragraph of this chapter (p. 45). Ask the Lord to show you parallels between the process of grinding a lens to refract light correctly and the abrasive elements of your own work.

On the basis of James 1:2, begin making it a habit to thank God not only for the trials that come from life in the home, the community and the church, but also from those that come from the workplace.