

STUDY GUIDE F O R SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORKPLACE

Chapter Six: Glowing Without Glaring

Groundwork

Read Chapter Six

After reading Chapter Six, explain in a single sentence the meaning of its title, "Glowing Without Glaring."

1 Peter 3:15. "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..."

Jot down one or two discussion questions you'd like to raise when you meet with your group:

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

Groupwork



Chapter Six begins with the story of the roommate jarred awake by a flashlight. If you've ever been temporarily blinded by a bright light, describe how it felt.

How might unbelievers feel under the glare of insensitive, pushy "witnessing"?

From the book (p. 59): "In this matter of witnessing to non-Christians, it is easy to swerve into one of two extremes."

From what you've seen, give examples of the two workplace witnessing extremes.

What do you believe leads Christians to such extremes?

Read John 17:9-11 and 20-23.

In Jesus' prayer to his Father, what did he ask repeatedly for both his first followers and those who would later believe? _____

See verses 21 and 23.

In what two ways would the answer to Jesus' request affect the unbelieving world? They would _____ and _____ that God the Father had sent Jesus.

From the book (p. 62):
"...the starting point in evangelism is not better techniques or more training, but a demonstration of heaven's unity between believers on earth."

Chapter Five emphasized identifying other believers in your work network and serving them in love. How does this relate to effective evangelism in the workplace?

Why do you think demonstrating unity among Christians out in the world where others can see it has such an impact on unbelievers?

Put yourself in the place of an unbeliever in your workplace. What opportunities, if any, exist for him or her to actually observe Christian-to-Christian unity?

I Peter 3:1-2. "Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives."

In the verses to the left, Peter describes a household that includes a believer (the wife) and an unbeliever (the husband). In such a situation, what way of witnessing should the believer mainly rely on?

In what ways are the relational dynamics within a household like those within a workplace?

How do the relational dynamics between a traveling evangelist and an audience differ from those between co-workers in a job setting?

What lessons about workplace witnessing can you draw from Peter's word to believing wives with unbelieving husbands?

Titus 2:9-10. "Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive."

In Titus 2:9-10, what elements of "workstyle witness" do you see in what Paul told Titus to teach Christian slaves?

Colossians 4:5-6. "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

Colossians 4:5-6 and I Peter 3:15 both offer insight into our witnessing with words. Both passages include the word "answer." What does this imply about recognizing opportunities for speaking to unbelievers about our faith?

I Peter 3:15. "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..."

What guidelines for verbal witness can you glean from the combined wisdom of both passages?

Heartwork

Philemon 6 (The Message): "And I keep praying that this faith we hold in common keeps showing up in the good things we do, and that people recognize Christ in all of it."

How am I loving my workplace associates as my "neighbors"?

How well prepared am I to share the gospel clearly when an opportunity comes through my work?
