

STUDY GUIDE F O R SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORKPLACE

Chapter Three: Up on the Lampstand

Groundwork

Read Chapter Three

Write a sentence that explains why this chapter is called, "Up on the Lampstand."

Read Matthew 5:14-16

What from Chapter Three would you like to bring up as you dialog with your group?

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

Groupwork

II Corinthians 4:4. "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

P. 29 raises the question, "What did God lose?" as a result of human sin. In light of II Corinthians 4:4 (see left column), how would you answer that question?

John 12:46. "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."

As a result of sin-blindness, what God lost—that which rightfully should be directed to him—gets wrongly directed to what other objects instead? (Give specific examples from your own workplace.)

John 12:46 refers to what major step God took to regain what he had lost because of sin?

John 1:4. "In him [Christ] was life, and that life was the light of men."

In light of the verses in the left column, describe God's strategy for regaining what he had lost as a result of sin.

How did God reproduce the light of Christ in people?

Matthew 5:14. "You are the light of the world."

Where does God place his now-lighted people?

Philippians 2:15-16. "...children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life..."

In that place, what are his lighted-ones to do?

How does knowing this strategy transform the way you see your role in the workplace?



Matthew 5:15. "Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."

What are some of the "bowls" under which we Christians often put our lights?

How does your job offer some of the same benefits supplied by a stand that holds a lamp or light bulb?

- Vengefulness
- Impatience
- Wrong-Doing
- Cheating
- Lying
- Hostility
- Two-facedness
- Deceit
- Hopelessness
- Pride
- Other _____
- Other _____

Check the boxes to the left that describe the kinds of darkness you encounter in your workplace.

How can you—from the "lampstand" of your work—shine the light of Christ into those light-starved areas? Be specific.

Matthew 5:16. "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Think of Matthew 5:16 in the context of your workplace. Why do you think Jesus gives priority to letting your light shine through *good deeds* [literally *works*] people can see? (Notice he does not emphasize *good words* they can hear.)

From the book (p. 33): "Dark-hearted men will not praise God nor give him the glory for his first good works—the sun, moon, stars, and all the other wonders of nature. So now God is doing his good works right in the world. People may avoid lifting their eyes to the hills or stars to see there the glory of God, but they cannot avoid a 'lighted one' working next to them hour after hour, day after day."

Read the quotation from page 33 of the book. Then tell of an example or two in which you have seen the effectiveness of God's strategy of placing a "lighted one" in a dark workplace.

Heartwork

- ✓ How is my attitude at work? Does it reflect my hope in Christ?
- ✓ Am I completely honest in all my relationships at work?
- ✓ Do I refrain from joining in workplace gossip?
- ✓ Are there tensions in my workplace? How might I serve as a peacemaker?
- ✓ What pockets of darkness in my workplace need prayer?

Reflect on the questions in the column to the left. Ask God to help you honestly answer each one.

If you have already built a strong relationship with a Christian co-worker, ask him or her to respond to the questions as they relate to the way you approach your work.

Confess any shortfalls to God and ask him to make you able, by His Spirit, to shine for his glory in your workplace.