

# HOW TO USE THIS GROUP GUIDE

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## CONNECT (10-15 MINS)

- Pick one or more of the warm-up questions and have all the group members give a response to the question(s).
- Make sure everybody gets a chance to speak. Don't let talkative people dominate the conversation, but graciously welcome everybody to participate.

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## TRUTH (10-15 MIN)

- Read the scriptures and paragraphs in this section to clearly communicate... what the Bible says about the week's topic.
- **Discussion Questions:** These questions get people thinking about the practical implications of the truth being discussed. Have one or two people give an answer, but don't spend too much time on these questions.  
Truth (10-15 min)

## GRACE (5 MINS)

- Read the grace scripture and section which shows how the passage points to Jesus Christ and God's grace.
- This section is really important, because it shows that life change begins with the grace of God and not our own efforts.

## **CHANGE (10-15 MINS)**

- Have everyone give an answer to each of the change questions.
- Take a good amount of time here. Really encourage people to think through how they can practically put truth into action.

## **PRAYER (10-15 MINS)**

- Read through the prayer focus points and have one or two people in the group pray.
- Make sure not to rush through prayer. The things we want God to change in our lives will often happen through prayer.

# **GOD**AT **WORK**

## **WORK & LEADERSHIP**

### GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE



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# WARM-UP

- ▶ Describe a day in the life of the first job you had.
- ▶ Do you prefer to work as a team or individually? Why?
- ▶ Describe a time when a job really challenged you to stretch and grow.

# TRUTH

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

(Philippians 2:1)

“Everything rises and falls on leadership.” This quote from John Maxwell might sound like an exaggeration to you, but it’s not. If we think of “rising” and “falling” as changes for the better or for the worse, then leadership is exactly what makes the difference. The world was in a free-fall because of sin, and it was the leadership of Jesus that saved the day. Paul encourages us to lead...

...like Jesus, and he explains how Jesus' example should shape our leadership.

# Creating Over Complaining

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped... (Phil 2:5-6)

Jesus never complained; he got to work creating opportunities for change. Complainers simply acknowledge what's wrong instead of doing something to change it. That's why people don't follow complainers. This old adage fits well here: "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." Jesus knew the cost to lead would be great, but the opportunity to save sinners was a far greater reward. Leadership will be difficult at times, but that means you're moving in the direction of change.



- ▶ Read verses 14-15 of Philippians 2. What's the other reason Paul gives here that complaining isn't fitting for a disciple?

# Serving Over Served

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves....

[Jesus] emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (Phil 5:2,7)

If your motivation for leading is selfish ambition or conceit, the goal of your leadership will be to make yourself appear as powerful as possible. Jesus-style leadership is the exact opposite. Jesus used his power to serve others. If you're a leader, you are likely to gain power, notoriety, and influence. The Jesus-style leader doesn't see these as ends but as means. Jesus could've justifiably demanded service from others – being the Son of God and all – but he came to serve. Any influence, power, or notoriety we...

...receive can become a powerful way to serve others and bring about change.

- ▶ In what ways is our culture's mistrust of power warranted? In what ways is it flawed?

# GRACE

## Christ Over Comfort

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8)

In the most profound act of leadership, Jesus exchanged the comfort of heaven for a cross. John 3:16 explains what motivated such a costly act – love. Leadership will bring difficulties, because Christ's kingdom hasn't yet come in its fullness. It requires sacrifice, endurance, and the heart of a servant. But when we see the great salvation Jesus accomplished through his leadership, we can gain the courage we need to lead as he led.

# CHANGE

- ▶ Are there things you tend to complain about? How could you change that habit and lead change in that area?
- ▶ In what areas of life do you have influence, notoriety, or power? How could you leverage them to serve others?
- ▶ How does the life of Jesus change your view of your role in the world?

# PRAYER

- ▶ Pray for a servant's heart to serve others.
- ▶ Pray for ideas to leverage influence to lead well.



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