

# Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Sept 2, 2018



Pastor Temple 8:15, 10:55, Pastor Hook 9:30

## Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about the past week? Follow-ups from last Sunday's message ?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener: Who do you think have the toughest jobs and why?

## Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Exodus 5:1-9; 5:22-6:5. It is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

**Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.'"** <sup>2</sup> Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go." <sup>3</sup> Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword." <sup>4</sup> But the king of Egypt said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!" <sup>5</sup> Then Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working."

<sup>6</sup> That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and overseers in charge of the people: <sup>7</sup> "You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw." <sup>8</sup> But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don't reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.' <sup>9</sup> Make the work harder for the people so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies." ... <sup>22</sup> Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me? <sup>23</sup> Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all."

-scripture continued on other page-

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.” <sup>2</sup> God also said to Moses, “I am the LORD. <sup>3</sup> I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself fully known to them. <sup>4</sup> I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners. <sup>5</sup> Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- What about the work situation described in the scriptures above seems to be the most evil and unjust to you?
- In the Lord’s mercy and because of his covenant with His people, He heard their “groaning” and brought about eventual deliverance. What was required of the people in being delivered and how long did it take?
- What lessons can those facing difficult work environments receive from this week’s scripture passage?

### **Another Related Scripture (10 min)**

- Would a volunteer please read aloud Colossians 3:23.
- Have you ever thought about your work at your job as also serving the Lord? Why or why not?
- How might this perspective shift our attitudes that we bring to our jobs?
- Is there a recent example you could share in which there was a connection between what you did in your job and a strong work of the Lord that came from it?

### **Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)**

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon and in the reflections upon the additional scripture above?
- Are there recurring instances of work related situations which go against your conscience? If so, are there creative ways in which you could address such problems in God-honoring ways?
- Have you ever thought about finding another job that might be a better fit for you? Why or why not?

### **Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)**

- How might the way we handle our failures as well as our successes in our jobs be a witness for Christ this week?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.