



Submission at Work
Week of March 17, 2019

Objective of this study: To understand more about submission to earthly authorities, what God's purpose is for it, and how to cooperate with him in that.

[Remember, the main goal of each Growth Group is to allow God's Word to change your heart so that others would see Jesus in you and be likewise changed to be like him. He wants to change the world through us.]

Welcome (5 minutes)

Who was (is) the best boss you've worked for?

Worship (5 – 10 minutes)

1. Sing a song or two of praise and thanksgiving to God.
2. Spend five minutes in silence asking God to prepare your heart for how he wants to speak to you.
3. After the five minutes have someone interrupt the silence and read **Psalm 4** meditatively to the group. Pause after each phrase letting God speak to you. **Did anything "jump out at you"?**

[It's really important when doing this study that we each think about ourselves specifically and ways we need to grow, not how Christians in general need to grow. Do the hard work of letting the Holy Spirit speak to *your* heart.]

Word/Work (60-90 minutes)

1. What stood out from the sermon?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:18-25.

Remember, Peter was writing to believers who were experiencing a lot of persecution for their faith. He wrote to encourage them and give them guidance on how to live in their difficult situation, in a society that was against them. He wrote to point his readers to Jesus, and to help them point their unbelieving neighbors, bosses, spouses, etc. to Jesus.

3. If you were a slave reading (or hearing) Peter's letter, what in this passage would you have found encouraging? What would you have found difficult?
4. How was Jesus able to get through his mistreatment? See especially v.23. What was accomplished as a result?

Sermon quote: "In the book of Genesis there's Joseph, sold into slavery by his brothers, a man of integrity and hard work, who rises to be Prime Minister of Egypt and saves his family from famine, those who would go on to be the ancestors of the Messiah. Joseph was a slave. He was a GOOD slave. **And he was more concerned with how God treated him than how people treated him. And he changed the course of human history.**"

5. Review the story of Joseph. Skim through Genesis chapters 37 and 39-41 (or read it in advance). How was Joseph mistreated by people in various kinds of authority over him? What are ways he responded in line with Peter's instructions in today's passage? What effect did this have on people around him? How did he show that he was more concerned with how God treated him than with how people treated him?

Sermon quote: “If Christianity is merely a set of beliefs and opinions then maybe that won't impact you much at the workplace. But if you have a living, triumphant, hilarious faith that a Holy God has overcome your sin and has invited you to live his life” and be his representative, and impact your world with his love - “that can't stay hidden...So, how do we, as redeemed people, respond to authority?”

6. How are you with taking instructions? With cooperating with someone in a position of authority?

Sermon quote: “Being a Christian doesn't mean you won't have conflicts. Of course not. But how do you approach them?... Let's keep in mind that most conflict at work really has nothing to do with the quality of our product or the success of our business. It really doesn't matter what shelf the coffee maker sits on or if the blinds are half way up or two-thirds of the way up. What really matters is if I let you win this power struggle then I better win the next 2 power struggles. Those are the kinds of conflicts we usually face.”

7. What are situations where you feel tempted to get into power plays?

Sermon quote: “Does God love or value your boss more than he loves or values you? Of course not... In the end we are all answerable to God for how we treat each other”... for how we use our authority, and for how we respond to those in authority over us.

8. What is the problem with equating authority with value? What happens to your mindset, your heart, your choices, and your behaviour if you think you are less valuable than someone who has more authority than you do?

9. Think about your workplace. What are ways you could positively influence people around you by entrusting yourself to God and acting with integrity?

Prayer

1. Spend the rest of the time praying for each other. **Praise God together for how he works, and how he allows us to partner with him to accomplish things in his kingdom.**
2. Here are some things you can pray about for the church:

A. That, as a church, we would actively and purposefully engage in the mission of Jesus in Campbell River.

B. Pastor Jeff and Ruthie as they continue to recover from exhaustion.

B. Our church board and staff as they lead us to live out the mission of Jesus

C. River Kids ministry as they reach out to kids in our community.

D. **Our missionary of the week:** Mike and Karen Livingstone of Power to Change. (Check out the church website for how to pray for them.)

E. **Local CR church:** Pastors Barry and Nancy Kardaal of the Vineyard Church.

Radiant Life March Drive - Men's and women's jackets, pants, and mitts.