

Dealing with Difficult Colleagues

Responding with Grace to Workplace Challenges

Key Scripture

Romans 12:17-21

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Introduction

Every workplace has challenging personalities and relationships. This study examines how to respond with grace and wisdom to difficult colleagues while maintaining healthy boundaries and professionalism.

Discussion Questions

Discuss these questions as a group, allowing space for personal reflection and honest sharing:

- Who is a challenging person in your workplace right now? What makes the relationship difficult?
- What does it mean practically to 'overcome evil with good' in workplace relationships?
- How do you maintain professional boundaries while trying to live at peace with difficult colleagues?
- What's the difference between being a peacemaker and being a pushover?
- How can you pray for difficult colleagues in a way that changes your heart toward them?

Personal Reflection

Consider your most challenging workplace relationship. How have you contributed to the difficulty, even unintentionally? What would it look like to take responsibility for your part while not accepting blame for theirs? Often, we can't change others, but we can change how we respond and whether we allow bitterness to take root.

Reflection Space

Use this space to write your personal thoughts and reflections:

This Week's Application

Choose one or more practical steps to apply this study in your workplace this week:

- Pray specifically for one difficult colleague by name this week
- Look for one opportunity to show unexpected kindness to a challenging person
- Examine your own behavior for ways you might be contributing to relationship difficulties
- If appropriate, initiate a respectful conversation to address ongoing tension

Prayer Points

Close your study time by praying for these areas:

- For difficult colleagues, that God would work in their hearts and circumstances
- For your own heart to remain free from bitterness and resentment
- For wisdom to set appropriate boundaries without building walls
- For opportunities to demonstrate Christ's love through your responses

May God's presence guide you in your workplace this week.