

Employers and Employees – Working as Unto the Lord

Theme: Living out our faith in work relationships.

Key Scriptures:

- **Ephesians 6:5-9:** Instructions for servants and masters.
- **Colossians 3:23-4:1:** “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.”

Key Point: Both employers and employees are called to treat each other with respect, fairness, and as serving God in all they do.

Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, children will:

1. Understand that work is a way to honor God.
 2. Learn that respect and fairness are essential in all relationships, including between employers and employees.
 3. Recognize that God sees and rewards our work when we do it for Him.
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Materials Needed

- Bible
 - Paper and markers for drawing or writing
 - Props or role-play items to simulate workplace roles (e.g., a clipboard, toy tools, etc.)
 - Handouts with Colossians 3:23-24
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Lesson Outline

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

Discussion Starter:

- Ask: “Have you ever helped someone with a task, like cleaning your room or helping your parents cook? How did it feel when they thanked you?”

- Share: “In life, some people are in charge (like bosses), and others help (like workers). Today, we’ll learn what the Bible says about how we should treat each other when we work.”
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2. Bible Teaching (15 minutes)

Read and Explain the Scriptures:

1. **Ephesians 6:5-9:**
 - Employees (servants) should work sincerely and wholeheartedly, as if working for Christ.
 - Employers (masters) must treat workers fairly, remembering that God is the ultimate Master.
2. **Colossians 3:23-24:**
 - “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.”
 - Our work is a way to worship God.

Key Teaching Points:

- **Respect:** Employees should respect their employers, working with a good attitude.
- **Fairness:** Employers should treat workers kindly, remembering they are accountable to God.
- **Work as Worship:** All work, whether big or small, can be done to honor God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to work as if you’re working for God?
 2. Why is it important for employers to be fair to their workers?
 3. How can we show respect and kindness when we’re given a task to do?
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3. Activities (15-20 minutes)

Activity 1: Role-Playing

- Divide children into pairs or small groups.
- Assign roles: employer (boss) and employee (worker).
- Give tasks (e.g., “organize these blocks” or “pretend to run a restaurant”).
- Afterward, discuss: How can the boss and worker show respect and kindness to each other?

Activity 2: Work as Worship Craft

- Provide paper and markers.
- Have children draw a picture of themselves doing a task they enjoy (e.g., cleaning, helping at home, or schoolwork).
- Write “Work as Worship” or Colossians 3:23 on the drawing.

Activity 3: Fairness Game

- Create a scenario where one child is unfairly treated (e.g., given too much work compared to others).
 - Discuss: How did it feel to be treated unfairly? Why is fairness important in work relationships?
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4. Memory Verse (5 minutes)

Colossians 3:23:

- “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.”
 - Teach the verse with motions:
 - “Whatever you do” (spread arms wide).
 - “Work heartily” (pretend to sweep or work).
 - “As for the Lord” (point upward).
 - “And not for men” (shake head “no” and point outward).
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5. Reflection and Application (10 minutes)

Discussion Questions:

1. How can you show respect when you’re asked to do a job at home or school?
2. What should you do if you’re treated unfairly by someone in charge?
3. How can we honor God in the way we work?

Encourage Action:

- Challenge children to do one task this week (at home, school, or elsewhere) “as for the Lord.”
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6. Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

- Thank God for giving us the ability to work and for teaching us how to treat each other.
 - Ask for His help to work with respect, fairness, and a heart that honors Him.
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Optional Extensions

- **Song:** Teach a song like “This Little Light of Mine” to encourage shining for God in all we do.
- **Game:** Play a team-building game to demonstrate cooperation and fairness in “work.”
- **Storybook:** Share a story about someone who worked hard and treated others kindly, reflecting God’s love.
- **Ephesians 6:5-9**
Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to **Christ**; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of **God** from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free. And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

The pharaoh who ruled Egypt around **1884 BC** likely belonged to the **12th Dynasty of the Middle Kingdom**. The most probable ruler at this time was **Senusret II (Sesostris II)** or **Amenemhat II**, depending on the exact dating.

Possible Pharaohs in 1884 BC

1. Amenemhat II (c. 1914–1879 BC)

- If the dating places 1884 BC in his reign, he was a king known for trade, military campaigns, and strengthening Egypt’s economy.
- His rule saw increased interactions with the Levant, which could connect to the biblical account of Semitic peoples like Joseph arriving in Egypt.

2. **Senusret II (c. 1897–1878 BC)**

- He was known for developing irrigation projects in the **Faiyum region**, which could align with Joseph's famine preparations (Genesis 41).
- His reign was peaceful, focusing on agricultural expansion.

Connection to Joseph?

If Joseph lived during the **Middle Kingdom**, it is possible that he served under a pharaoh like **Senusret II or Amenemhat II**. This period saw **foreign Semitic peoples in Egypt**, trade with Canaan, and economic reforms that align with Joseph's biblical role.