

Solid Ground in a Shifting World
“Slaves & Masters”

GETTING STARTED

ICE BREAKER: Who was the best boss you ever worked for? What made them the best?

KEY THOUGHT: *Work like Christ is your boss.*

GETTING THE POINT

Read Colossians 3:22-25

1. What specific commands are given to bondservants in these verses?
2. Which of these apply to employees today?
3. How does Paul repeatedly direct our attention upward, beyond human overseers?

Read Colossians 3:25-4:1

4. In a culture where masters were considered to have all the power, and bondservants had little if any rights, how would the command of 4:1 be considered radical?
5. In what way does 3:25 apply to both masters and servants?

GETTING DEEPER

Read Philemon 15-18

1. What are some of the differences you heard between first century bondservants in the ancient world, and nineteenth century slavery in America?
2. With those differences as a backdrop, think about the relationship between runaway bondservant Onesimus and his master Philemon, to whom Paul addressed this letter. How does Paul call Philemon in these verses to adopt a new perspective on his runaway servant?

GETTING PERSONAL

1. What are some of the most common areas of tension today between employees and employers?
2. How do Paul’s words here speak to these tensions?
3. Do you resonate more with Paul’s words to bondservants, or to masters? Which of his challenges would make the biggest difference for you in your real-life work situation?
4. How can your conduct at work contribute to, or detract from, your witness for Christ to unbelieving co-workers?

PRAYER

Pray for Grace Point leadership as we continue to navigate the challenges of reopening in the midst of Coronavirus!

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