

# STUDY GUIDE

## WAR AND PEACE 06.27.21

### [set up]

Share a story about either the best or worst work environment you have experienced. Why was that the case and what did you do about it?

### [digging deeper]

Read Ephesians 6:5-9. Summarize this passage in a small sentence. For an even tougher task, summarize it in a word.

Just based off this initial reading and the meaning of the text, where do you immediately feel:

- Encouraged or affirmed when it comes to your work relationships?
- Challenged and convicted in your work relationships?

The terms “slaves” and “masters” can create a disconnect with us here in 2021 with our primary exposure to slavery being the horrific history of African slavery in the USA. Given that this passage was written in the first century to the Roman Empire, what distinctions can be made? If you are at a loss or want to revisit this, read from this link: <https://bible.org/article/some-initial-reflections-slavery-new-testament>

The best context for application of this passage is in our work environments. *Next to our home and family members, our work environments are where we spend the most amount of time and our co-workers are who we spend the most time with.* How does that make the message of this text critical for us as followers of Christ?

Fill in the blank with the words that you feel best convey the summary of this passage:

Christians should be the \_\_\_\_\_ employers/employees.

Explain or elaborate on your word.

For some additional passages related to this topic, read/study:

Galatians 3:28

Titus 2:9-10

1 Corinthians 7:20-24

1 Timothy 6:1-2

Colossians 3:22-25

1 Peter 2:18

(over)

## **[living it out]**

After reading through this study, what is the Holy Spirit impressing on your heart personally?

What are you going to do in light of what God is putting on your heart? What practical step can you take?

What question can this group ask you (and when) to help you see this through?

What is a prayer you need to pray for yourself (praise, gratitude, confession, request)?

What is a prayer you can pray for those in your group?

What is a prayer you can pray for the church?

Close your time sharing and praying around your group on these items.