

## **Small Group Meeting Guidelines**

*(Suggested agenda for creating a consistent & balanced group meeting in 90 minutes)*

Study for the week of: **Jan 15-21, 2012**

*The Office : Finding God in a Dysfunctional Workplace - The Control Freak*

### **Getting Started: (15 minutes)**

People arrive (meet & greet time)

### **Icebreaker: (5 minutes)**

Recall a time in your professional experience where you worked alongside or reported directly to someone exhibiting the behavior of a control freak? What are symptoms that you've observed in the workplace that indicate so? How do you and your co-workers attempt to accept or rationalize the behavior of someone exhibiting these symptoms?

### **Gather The Group for Announcements: (5 minutes)**

- 1) Welcome new people
- 2) Pass around the roster and
- 3) Announce group plans for upcoming meetings or socials

### **Worship: (5 minutes)**

Options:

- 1) Use a CD player and play two songs,
- 2) Ask someone to lead with guitar,
- 3) Read a hymn
- 4) Do a meditative scripture reading and/or
- 5) Ask people to share something for which they are thankful

### **Discussion & Application: (30 minutes)**

We read in Proverbs 16:7 that "When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him." Throughout this series we are reminded that our words and actions are a testimony to others around us, especially in the workplace. As our deeds bring pleasure to God we experience the blessings that he brings through our relationships with others in our workplace.

In today's discussion we look at the motives behind the "control freak's" words and actions. We also discuss the negative effect that it has in the workplace. First, let's focus on discussing the motives of the control-freak. Explain one or more of the following motives: "Fear of Failure", "Concern for your Welfare" and "Arrogance/Lack of Respect" as the rationale of a boss or co-worker to take control over their peers and/or subordinates. How does an understanding of these motives help when you are impacted by someone who is "overly" controlling and interfering on the job?

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### **Discussion & Application (continued):**

#### **Read Proverbs 16:2, 5-6**

*Share/Discuss:* How could some of these *motives* be considered legitimate and satisfactory in the world's view? Explain how these symptoms are actually rooted in pride. What do you observe in Proverbs concerning God's view of these motives? How do you contrast the "fear of the world" (in this case your boss and/or peers) and the "fear of God" as it relates to your place in the working environment and your Christian walk, respectively?

*Thought Questions:* What are the direct impacts to your working community and ultimately your company's success due to the actions of the control freak? Does it affect only yourself or are others impacted as well? Do you experience times of discouragement in your work ethic or progress when having to deal with these actions? How is your response to these actions directly impacting your productivity?

Now let's look at God's Word to see how we should *respond* when working with someone who is a control freak.

#### **Read Proverbs 3:5-8, 16:33 and Psalm 127:1-2**

*Share/Discuss:* What does God say to do when working in the presence of a control freak? What thoughts and actions should you try to avoid? How does it help to know that you are not being singled out but that others are affected as well? What can you do to practice trust in God and others supporting you when facing the pressures of working with an overly controlling person?

*Thought Questions:* What can you do to make things better in the realm of what you can control? What can you turn over to God in the realm of what you cannot control?