

RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

Spend a few minutes catching everyone up to speed from last week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)

PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)

Ask someone to share a brief faith story about how they see God working in their life this week.

PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

LESSON (30 min)

Spend five minutes on these two questions:

1. What are some kinds of situations that make you feel impatient at work?
2. Who or what kinds of people make you impatient?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 - it is the most beloved chapter in the Bible on love. Often recited at weddings, this chapter serves as a pattern for the ideal marriage. But can we apply it to our workplace lives? Many have not reflected on the larger context and its implications for today. In verse 4 we read, "Love is patient." Three words full of meaning. Patience heads the list of behaviors for demonstrating God's love to others. Have you benefitted from God's patience with our own foolishness?

How do you react when a coworker misses a deadline, mistakes are made, unforeseen obstacles arise, or cost overruns occur? To react with impatience is considered normal and expected, to react with patience is considered abnormal and unexpected. Does today's society and way of living encourage one to be patient?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Can you think of a time when someone was patient with you, when they could have very easily been impatient? How do you view that person (with high regard or low)?
- How does knowing that God is slow in His anger shape the ways you deal with others?
- If others viewed you as a patient man, how would that be reflected in your work environment?
- Do you think that patience comes naturally, or is it something that is learned as you get older and more mature? How do you learn patience? (James 1:2-5)
- In the Bible, perseverance is often mentioned in the same verse as patience (Matthew 24:13, Romans 5:3-4, Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 10:23, 10:36, James 1:2-4). Why do these two traits go hand in hand? What is the difference between them?

ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

1. Write out a plan for overcoming impatience and include steps to intentionally strive to implement and practice patience at work?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)