

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. Think of some things that your business/organization offers that could cause you to envy (i.e., titles, parking spots, workspaces, expense accounts, wages, etc.).
2. Do you find it hard to celebrate the success of others? Why or why not?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. In verse 4 it says that love “does not envy”. So, selfish jealousy is at odds with God’s type of love. The Greek word translated “envy” means “to burn with zeal.” Literally, the sense is “to be heated or to boil over with envy, hatred, or anger.” In the context of 1 Corinthians 13, the idea is that love does not focus on personal desires. It is not eager to increase possessions – God’s type of love is selfless, not selfish.

In the business world, we are often tempted to compare ourselves with others. Writing on this topic, author and pastor Chuck Swindoll observed, “When you compare beyond your God-given capabilities, then you can expect frustration, discouragement, mediocrity, and in the long run, defeat. Cultivate your capabilities. Stop comparing. Enjoy being you!”

GROUP DISCUSSION

- There are two sides of envy – either wanting what someone has, or wishing they didn’t have it. Which do you find yourself struggling with more and why?
- When you possess true love, you will not be unhappy about, complain, or wish to diminish or detract from the attainments or advantages of another. Why is this so hard to do sometimes in the workplace?
- If you truly have a love commitment to your coworkers you will not feel threatened, lessened, or weakened by attainments, advantages, or favor from which he/she benefits. How will this affect your relationships in the office?
- If this were the culture of your workplace, how much would people enjoy working there?

ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

- Make a list of all the things that you have to be grateful for.
- Who can you celebrate this week because of their success? Find a way to celebrate them.
- What specific ways are you going to be generous this week?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)