

RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

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. Would your co-workers know you as a team player or a lone ranger? Why?
2. How does it feel when you need someone's help, but they act selfishly?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. In verse five the apostle Paul includes some things that love is not. He says that love, "is not self-seeking", which can also be translated as love "does not insist on its own way." Self-focus is the antithesis of love. The opposite of self-seeking is God-seeking. The remedy for selfishness is love. Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second [commandment] is this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31). Love for God and others is the mark of a believer.

In a culture that is overrun with a sense of entitlement and egocentrism, this is a critical lesson to be learned. This is especially true when it comes to one of the most selfish ventures of our times—our career. Self-seeking attitudes result in influencing others to respond in kind by reinforcing their own self-interests, thereby inflicting cross-purposes within the team.

The Bible calls us to serve one another, bear one another's burdens, look out for the interests of others, and so forth (Galatians 5:15, 6:2; Philippians 2:4). In agreement with these concepts, 1 Corinthians 13:5 teaches us that we should not seek our own happiness exclusively or even mainly. Instead, we should seek the welfare of others as more important than our own, even when personal sacrifice and self-denial become necessary.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Do you think acting selfishly could ever be a good thing? Why or why not?
- Have you ever selfishly ignored someone who was in need at work? Why did you do it?
- Someone in the group read Philippians 2:3-4. What does it mean to think of "others as better than yourselves?"
- What are some ways that you could "take an interest in others, too?"

ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

1. The temptation to be selfish is a natural and common temptation. Though it's common, it's still important that we fight this temptation so it doesn't lead to sin.
2. What are some practical ways this week that you can focus on helping other people?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)