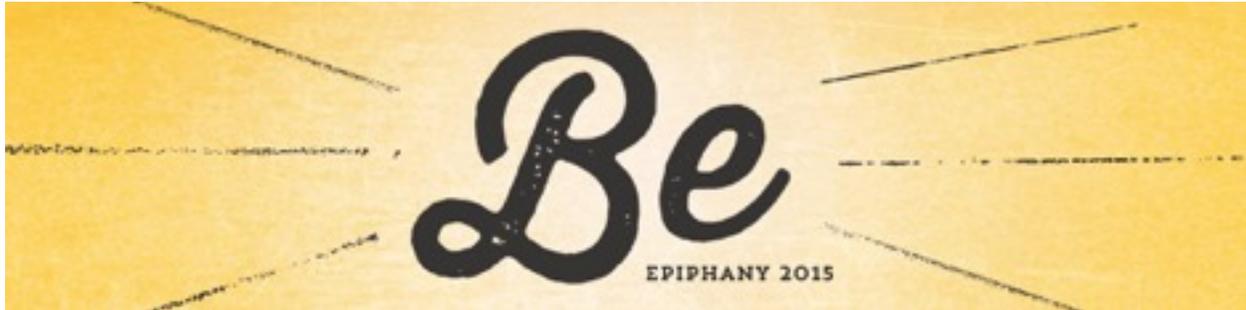




small groups

Discussion Guide



BE Faithfully Present At Work

Col. 3:23-4:6

Ice Breaker

(5 minutes)

Craig joked about being in the half of IBC's teaching team who hasn't published a book. He unveiled his faux book projects, spoofing Andy's, Barry's, and Mark's books.

Discuss

- If you were going to write a book, what would it be about?
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Lesson Review

(40 minutes)

Craig told about ghost cities popping up all over China – huge, modern cities with housing, retail, office space, hospitals, arts centers, sports venues, libraries, public utilities, and everything else you would expect from a city, except inhabitants. (You can see the entire 60 Minutes story Craig mentioned here: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/china-real-estate-bubble-lesley-stahl-60-minutes/>)

The analogy is haunting. We spend huge chunks of our life's time and energy building something that may seem big, impressive and well-appointed. But empty.

Discuss

- Have you ever felt like your work is empty or trivial? When and why?

Read Col. 3:23-4:6

Discuss

- In this passage, Paul speaks of slavery and his own unjust imprisonment. What does this passage say about our response to injustice?
- How does this passage apply to you if you're not employed in the traditional sense? If you're a student or a full-time parent or any position that doesn't issue a W2, God still has work for you. How does this passage apply to your situation?

Read Luke 15

Craig pointed out that the lost things in all three of these parables had varying levels of culpability. The lost son made poor decisions that led to his lost-ness but the lost coin didn't. Craig said, "It doesn't matter why or how people end up lost. They just do. Our job is to go after them and bring them back."

Craig pointed out three attributes that he imagined Jesus would have as a coworker.

- **He would do good work.** Craig said he doubted that Jesus' carpentry business drew a lot of complaints about sloppy workmanship.
- **He would value people over projects or schedules.** Craig talked about how much of Jesus' ministry was performed in interruptions.
- **He would bless others.** Jesus wouldn't have been the office gossip. Even in dark situations, Jesus would have looked for opportunities to bring light.

Discuss

- Can you improve in any of these three areas? Which is most challenging for you right now?
- If, tomorrow, Jesus were to show up to your job, would things go any differently? How?

Application

(15 minutes)

Craig said, “God’s heart is for the lost.” And we sang, “We are the light of the world. We gotta let the light shine.” If you’re a follower of Jesus you are a missionary, sent to the people you interact with every day.

Discuss

- To whom are you sent? You probably interact with more people each day than you realize — neighbors, coworkers, family members, friends, etc. Prayerfully consider which of these seem to be your mission field. Share their names with your group.
- International missionaries give years to study, prayer, fundraising, and relationship-building in order to excel at their calling. What’s one thing you could do this week to engage your current missionary calling?

