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Small Group Study: Facilitator's Guide

The Good Book on Business

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Facilitator's Guide

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Welcome to *The Good Book on Business* small group study.

Here are some things you need to know before you begin.

The purpose of the book is ...

to expand the Kingdom of God by multiplying the quantity and quality of Biblical businesses worldwide.

In order to do that, we have to change some commonly-held paradigms about what a business is in the eyes of God, and that is what *The Good Book on Business* attempts to do.

The Small Group Study is designed...

- to help people grapple with the concepts expressed,
- to encourage them to take actions to apply them to their lives, businesses and careers and
- to fuel the worldwide movement to multiply the quantity and quality of Biblical businesses.

Your role is...

to promote, administer and facilitate the study.

Promote: Actively recruit members. You could have as few as two or three, and as many as 15 or 16. The ideal group size is probably around 7 – 10. If you have more than that, you may want to consider an additional group.

Administer: Make sure that everyone has a copy of the book. They can purchase them on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, from the publisher, from a local book store, or from the author. The last page lists many of these links.

Facilitate: That means that you are a guide by the side, not a sage on the stage. Your job is to help people process the content, to engage with it in dialogue with one another. Encourage everyone to prepare before each meeting. Ask the questions, encourage and reward people for participating.

Because there are some ideas expressed which contradict some commonly held beliefs and ideas, you may find people expressing some resistance, or disagreeing with the ideas and conclusions in the book. That's natural and to be expected. Be respectful of those ideas, thank the person for expressing it. You may want to say something like this: "Can you help me understand why you believe that?"

Ask any skeptics to withhold their views until they have reviewed the entire book.

Don't get off track, and don't let someone take over the session. Bring everyone back to the last two questions for each session.

You may want to download a copy of *How to Facilitate a Small Group Bible Study*, (www.thegoodbook.com) . This is a short and easy read that will help you understand your role as a facilitator and give you some practical tips to help you be more effective.

How the Study works...

1. Each member should read the assigned chapters before the group meeting.
2. In the group meeting, ask the questions, one a time, and solicit dialogue and discussion. After the dialogue, towards the end of the meeting, ask each person the last two questions.
3. Make the assignment for the next meeting.

If you have any questions, or any comments you'd like to communicate to us, email info@davekahle.com.

1. Introduction

Prior to this lesson, members should have read Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of *The Good Book on Business*.

Discussion questions:

1. What is the significance of the fact that God gave Adam work before he gave him a spouse and a family?
2. What are the implications of God relating to Adam in his work and working with him to accomplish the task Adam was given?
3. What other Biblical examples can you find of the precedent set in Genesis: God gives a person a task and then works with him to complete that task?
4. How often have you heard the Biblical word “household” spoken of as if it meant “family?”
5. Review a couple of the verses that indicate that a household was not a family but rather a business.
6. Name some organizations of people that would fit the definition of a Biblical business but that are not thought of as businesses today.
7. Since God created mankind for work and it is in work that he interacts with man, to what degree do you think Biblical businesses are the cellular unit of God’s economy?
8. What is one of your take-aways from today’s lesson?
9. What is one thing you will do as a result of this lesson?

Assignment for the next session: Read *Chapter Four: Abraham: A Biblical Business on Steroids*

2. Abraham: A Biblical Business on Steroids

The members should have read Chapter Four of *The Good Book on Business*, prior to this session.

Discussion questions:

1. How big do you think Abraham's business must have been?
2. Since God set the precedent that he would give mankind tasks and then work with them to complete those tasks, is it reasonable to understand that God worked with Abraham to build the size of his business?
3. How did Abraham grow his faith? What was the venue for the testing and developing of faith?
4. What significance is there to the fact that Abraham grew a huge business and a legendary faith before he had a family?
5. What is there in this Biblical story of Abraham that resonates with you the most?
6. What is your biggest take-away from today's session?
7. What is one thing you will do as a result of today's session?

Assignment for the next session: Read Chapter Five of *The Good Book on Business: Rewards and Punishments*.

3. Rewards and Punishments

Prior to this session, the members should have read *Chapter Five: Rewards and Punishments*.

Discussion Questions:

1. What other Biblical example can you name of God blessing or punishing the entire enterprise as a result of the actions of the head?
2. What contemporary examples can you cite of the same principle?
3. To what degree are heads of organizations held to a higher standard today? Can you cite some examples?
4. What do you make of the pattern of God blessing the obedience and good work of the head of a household with more significant work and an increase in worldly wealth?
5. Can you identify any other Biblical stories that illustrate that pattern?
6. Can you identify some contemporary stories that illustrate that same pattern?
7. What did you take away from today's discussion?
8. What's one thing you will do as a result?

Assignment for the next session: Read *Chapter Six: Relationships within Biblical Businesses*.

4. Relationships within Biblical Businesses

Prior to this session, the members should have read *Chapter Six, Relationships within Biblical Businesses*.

Discussion questions:

1. If we decide to model some of our business practices after the Biblical model, then how would we create a culture within our businesses that would engender a level of respect and commitment that would begin to approach the Biblical example?
2. Clearly, the Bible narrative indicates a very strong relationship between the business's employees and the head of the business. What would be some modern day examples of that same principle applied?
3. How does the Bible treat children and businesses?
4. What do you make of the fact that all the people in several businesses in the New Testament were converted all at one time?
5. What kind of a person might a business owner be to inspire you to follow after him in things as deep and important as converting to Christ?
6. What did you take away from this session?
7. What is one thing you will do as a result?

Assignment for the next session: Read *Chapter Seven: Biblical Businesses Have Spiritual Significance*.

5. Biblical Businesses Have Spiritual Significance

Prior to this session, the members should have read *Chapter Seven: Biblical Businesses Have Spiritual Significance*.

Discussion questions:

1. Respond and react to this statement: *If being spiritual is about finding God and interacting with him, then the workplace in general and businesses in particular have spiritual significance because it is there where he consistently interacts with mankind.*

2. To what degree were you aware that the first two incidences of the use of spiritual gifts were both business applications?

3. Respond and react to this statement: *This spiritual significance underscores the special place that businesses have in the Bible. They are not just entities that provide a living for their stakeholders. They are ascribed special spiritual significance in the eyes of God. He blesses and curses them, he interacts with mankind through them, he distributes his gifts to be used in them, and he delivers the gospel to them.*

4. What are the implications of the fact that God used a businessperson to lead almost every major movement in the Bible?

5. Consider the implications of these two things: 1. Spiritual gifts are given for the common good. 2. Spiritual gifts are evidenced in the business world.

6. What did you take away from today's discussion?

7. What is one thing you will do as a result of this lesson?

Assignment for next session: Read *Chapter Eight: What Jesus Said about Biblical Businesses*.

6. What Jesus Said About Biblical Businesses

Prior to this session, the members should have read *Lesson Eight: What Jesus Said About Biblical Businesses*.

Discussion questions:

1. What do you make of the fact that Jesus operated on the assumption that the household was the cellular unit of society and the economy?
2. What do you make of the fact that Jesus introduced himself to Peter by first richly blessing his business?
3. Note at least three things you can learn about Biblical businesses from the parable of the bags of gold.
4. React to this statement: *The reward for work done well is the opportunity to do more on a larger scale. In other words, to interact with God on a different plane. As you do work well, God invites you to a deeper level of relationship with him.*
5. Can you cite some contemporary examples of this truth?
6. What did you take away from this lesson?
7. What is one thing you will do as a result?

Assignment: Read *Chapter Nine: Biblical Businesses in the New Testament*.

7. Biblical Businesses in the New Testament

Prior to this session, members should have read *Chapter Nine: Biblical Businesses in the New Testament*.

Discussion questions:

1. Compare and contrast the Biblical mandate that 'deacons' should prove themselves in their businesses with today's practice of substituting 'knowledge gained in seminaries' for wisdom gained in a business as the qualifier for Christian leadership.
2. How would being able to manage a business well equip someone for Christian service?
3. What do you make of the fact that in the early days of the establishment of Christianity, entire businesses converted at one time?
4. What is the significance that God chose a Roman Centurion to lead his entire business to Christ as the pivotal turning point in the expansion of Christianity?
5. React to this statement: *If you are a business owner, at this point, you ought to be awed by the potential within your business.*
6. What are some of the advantages of businesses morphing into churches?
7. What did you take away from today's lesson?
8. What is one thing you will do as a result?

Assignment for the next session, Read *Chapter Ten: A Consolidated Picture of Biblical Businesses*.

8. A Consolidated Picture of Biblical Businesses

Prior to this session, members should have read *Chapter Ten: A Consolidated Picture of Biblical Businesses*.

Discussion questions:

1. Of the list of things we have learned about Biblical businesses, which resonates with you the most?

2. When applied to today's world, which of the characteristics most appeals to you?

Why?

3. When we consider the implications of a rapid expansion of Biblical businesses, which of those listed most resonates with you?

Why?

4. What other implication can you see of the rapid expansion of Biblical businesses?

5. What did you take away from today's lesson?

6. What is one thing you will do as a result?

Assignment for next session: Read *Chapter Eleven: Transforming Your Business*.

9. Transforming Your Business

Prior to this session, members should have read *Chapter Eleven: Transforming Your Business*.

Discussion questions:

1. Which of the “prayer disciplines” can you see yourself most easily building into your business?
2. When do you think you could have revised your “foundational documents?”
3. Which of the different ways of bringing in “multiple advisors” do you expect to implement?
4. What are some ways you can bring your family into the business?
5. What are a couple very specific things you can do to “intentionally work at crafting a culture? “
6. What one thing can you do to ‘get continuously better at your business?
7. How, specifically, can you “be sensitive to opportunities to grow in size and influence?”
8. How can you “encourage others to add to the movement?”
9. Which of the items identified above will you implement first?

Assignment for next session: Read *Chapter Twelve: Implications for Families*.

10. Implications on Families

Prior to this session, members should have read *Chapter Twelve: Implications on Families*.

Discussion Questions:

1. To what degree do you agree with the assertion that modern society holds families first, but the Biblical patterns hold businesses up as a higher priority?
2. What do you make of the fact that the Bible rarely speaks about families, as we use the term today? There are lots of passages which illustrate God's blessing and punishments on the business, but almost none that note a similar attitude towards families.
3. If we were to wave a magic wand and create ten times as many Biblical businesses, how would families in this society be impacted?
4. If you could create a business, and bring your family into it from a very young age, what would be the impact on your children?
5. To what degree does the current view of 'families first, businesses are unimportant' enlarge the position of the religious establishment and degrade the position of Biblical businesses?
6. What did you take away from this lesson?
7. What is one thing you will do as a result?

Assignment for the next session: Read *Chapter Thirteen: Biblical Businesses, the Economy, and the Culture*.

11. Biblical Businesses, the Economy and the Culture

Prior to this session, members should have read *Chapter Thirteen: Biblical Businesses, the Economy, and the Culture*.

Discussion questions:

1. Think about what it would be like if you were to head, or have a significant responsibility in, a Christian business.
2. Which of the implications on the economy that were discussed in this chapter most resonate with you?
3. What other implications do you anticipate?
4. React to this statement: *There is not a societal problem today that could not be significantly alleviated by the culture and lifestyle of the Christian business. It could be the solution to our most pressing economic and cultural problems.*
5. What did you take away from this lesson?
6. What is one thing you will do as a result?

Assignment for the next session: Read *Chapter Fourteen: What Hinders Us?*

12. What Hinders Us?

Prior to this session, members should have read *Chapter Fourteen: What Hinders Us?*

Discussion questions:

1. To what degree is it possible that we have been conditioned to see things—particularly the role of business—differently than God does?
2. To what degree do you agree with this statement: *It's entirely possible, even likely, that almost all of us have some false and damaging paradigms lurking in the deep recesses of our minds and souls and influencing our attitudes and behaviors in ways that are ultimately detrimental to our spiritual health, both individually and that of our communities.*
3. To what extent is it possible that some of our deep-seated ideas actually hinder the workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our communities?
4. To what extent do you agree with this statement: *We haven't seen the Biblical teaching on businesses because we have not looked for it. We haven't looked for it because we've been content to allow false ideas to direct our attitudes and our behaviors.*
5. The original draft of this chapter had ten other paradigms, both from secular society as well as the institutional church culture, that hinder the proliferation of Biblical businesses. What do you see as additional ideas or paradigms that hinder the growth of Biblical businesses?
6. To what degree do you agree or disagree with the idea that 'true ministry is only done within the auspices of the institutional church?'

7. What did you take away from this lesson?

8. What is one thing you will do as a result?

Assignment for the next session: Read *Chapter Fifteen: What to Do Now? An Action Plan for a Way Forward* and *Chapter Sixteen: Final Thoughts*.

13. What to do Now? An Action Plan for a Way Forward

Prior to this session, members should have read *Chapter Fifteen: What to Do Now? An Action Plan for a Way Forward*, and *Chapter Sixteen: Final Thoughts*.

Discussion questions:

1. To what degree do you agree with the author that a group of dedicated and courageous Christian business people could be just as effective in changing the country's beliefs as the gay rights movement was?
2. In the list of elements that are necessary to change society's paradigms, where do you see yourself fitting? What role could you play?
3. React and respond to this statement: *The strategy is proven. The infrastructure is in existence. The people necessary to make it happen are already in place. We could really and truly change the paradigms that have hindered us in five years. In ten years, we can multiply the number of biblical businesses worldwide by a factor of ten, at least.*
4. React and respond to this statement: *All that is necessary are courageous, Spirit-led individuals willing to take up the message, roll up their sleeves, and get into the business of multiplying the number of biblical businesses.*
5. What did you take away from the series of lessons?
6. Will you join the movement? What will you do?

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From the author: www.thegoodbookonbusiness.com

From Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Good-Book-Business-Lessons-seller/dp/0989000885/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1492453738&sr=8-1&keywords=The+Good+Book+on+Business+by+Dave+Kahle

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