

MARKETPLACE **BIBLE STUDIES** *1*

God WITH US
AT WORK

JAMES **BRUYN**

GOD WITH US AT WORK

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Chapter 1

God's Love for You

HOW DOES KNOWING GOD LOVES US INFLUENCE
OUR ATTITUDE AT WORK?



*See what great love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God!*

—1 John 3:1a

Ice Breaker:

What is something you enjoy doing?

SOMETIMES WE HAVE GREAT SUCCESS IN OUR WORK. THERE IS A great sense of accomplishment as we look back at what we've done during the day, on what we've created, on a difficult problem we've solved, or look back over a longer time period on a project we have led or been part of that has successfully completed. At those times, what does it mean that God loves us?

For many times of our life, we settle into a regular routine: we get up, we go to work or school, and we come home, relax, play and repeat. There is not great sense of accomplishment, but there is also no dissatisfaction—life is good, and the stability of the routine is reassuring. At those times, what does it mean that God loves us?

Then there are times when life seems to be spiraling out of control. Circumstances seem to be conspiring against us. We've heard rumors of layoffs at work, our car is broken down, the bills are piling up, family members are sick, or people are just treating us unkindly. At those times, what does it mean that God loves us?

Are there circumstances or times at work when you feel alone, like God isn't there? Is there anything that people can do which can separate us from God's love? Is there anything that can separate us from God's love?

EPHESIANS 3:17-19

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

1 JOHN 3:1-3

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

1 JOHN 4:7-12

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. When you hear people talk about God's love, what comes to mind?
2. Describe a time when you experienced the love of God when you were working. What did that feel like?
3. Describe a time when you were working and you felt alone, like God was not there. What finally changed to make you aware of God's presence?
4. How does knowing the width, length, height, and depth of Christ's love for you influence your attitude at work and toward your work?
5. With what is happening right now at work, what does it mean to you that you are God's child?
6. Knowing that when Christ appears you shall be like him, how do you need to purify yourself?
7. At work, which co-workers or customers is it easy to show love to, and which ones is it hard to show love to? Why?
8. Share a story of when you showed love to a co-worker or customer who came across as un-loveable. What was the source of your love for this person?

SUMMARY

When you meet a young man, or young woman who has just fallen in love, there is a joy and a smile on their faces that nothing can take away from them. They seem to be floating on air. You may not have just fallen head over heels in love with somebody, but God is madly in love with you! He calls you his son or daughter! Turn your attention away from your work experience, and focus on the love Christ has for you. As you focus on God's love, you will find the source of peace and joy, he will place a new song in your heart, and the smile on your face will come from knowing that you are God's child, from knowing that God loves you.

APPLYING GOD'S TRUTHS

We all need a little help to be reminded of God's love for us, to lift our eyes above the pressures of the workplace, to see the love Christ Jesus our Lord has for us. In your unique way, who do you need to remind today, or this week, about God's love for them, so that they can stand firm in the love of Christ?

PRAYER

Father, root us and establish us in your love—that same love that redeemed us from our sins. Give us the power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep Christ's love is for us. There

are people around us at work who we can only love with your help, so please fill us with your love for these men and women.

Lord, life is really rough for my friend right now so surround my friend with people who love him. Lord He is your child, please help him to begin to grasp again the width, the length the height and the depth of the love that you have for him. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



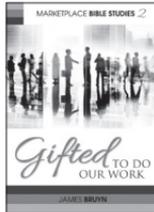
James Bruyn (BMath, MATS, CMA, PMP) is a visionary leader, writer and speaker who enjoys helping individuals integrate their faith in God with their daily life. James is passionate about connecting the rich promises of our loving Heavenly Father with the joys and challenges of living out our faith in the workplace.

James is a consultant and leadership coach for the rail industry. He has a joint honors degree in Computer Science and Accounting with over twenty-five years of experience delivering innovative technology solutions for complex business problems across multiple industries. He also holds a Master of Arts in Theological Studies. James has been involved in many aspects of ministry leadership, including church planting, young adult ministry, preaching and board leadership for churches and the Navigators of Canada. He and his wife, Susan, have three teenage children.

Visit the author at www.marketplace-ministry.ca.

ALSO BY THE AUTHOR

MARKETPLACE BIBLE STUDIES 2
GIFTED TO DO OUR WORK



Has God prepared you to face your workday?

Does it feel like the cost of working with integrity and standing firm in your faith is too high a price to pay? Is there any benefit to being identified as a Christian at work? And what does it mean to do all that you do in the name of Jesus? In the sequel to *God With Us At Work*, James Bruyn will help you delve deeper into your workplace attitudes and relationships to give you practical ways to approach your daily work. This book will help you to see how you can use your God-given gifts at work and how to do the will of God as you go about your day job.

Your workplace is an excellent place to see God working in your life. So take some time over a coffee break or lunch to embark on this journey of discovery with your co-workers or friends.

“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

—Colossians 3:17, NIV