More Than Her Best Work

Acceptance · Story 3

Good work without making it the price of belonging

45-minute session · About 20 minutes to prepare

Story-based Bible discussions for older teens and adults (16+).

Help participants consider Christ as the source of spiritual standing while using their abilities, sharing responsibility and making time for people.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:30 (NIV) on BibleGateway

By the end of the session

• Identify wisdom, righteousness, holiness and redemption as gifts located in Christ in 1 Corinthians 1:30.

• Distinguish careful service from using flawless performance to prove worth.

• Name one task to share, one limit to acknowledge or one person to make time for.

Before your group meets

• Read the linked NIV Scripture passage and the Scripture context in this guide.

• Preview the story's narrated path or interactive edition. Choose one format for the group; allow 15 minutes.

• For shared viewing, arrange a screen and sound. For interactive reading, use one shared device or invite pairs to read on their own phones.

• Print page 4 of the PDF for each participant, or invite them to use their own paper. Bring pens and choose three discussion questions.

A 45-minute plan

Time	Lead the group through
0–4 min	Welcome and open the conversation
4–9 min	Read and observe Scripture
9–24 min	Watch or read one complete path
24–32 min	Explore the three choices
32–42 min	Discuss and connect
42–45 min	Reflect and close

Watch the story · Read and make choices · Open this guide online

Lead the conversation

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Open with this question

When does being the dependable person start to feel like a job you can never put down?

Participants may pass on a question or discuss the characters instead of sharing a personal experience.

Read and observe Scripture

Read 1 Corinthians 1:30 (NIV) on BibleGateway

In 1 Corinthians 1, Paul challenges confidence in human status and achievement. Verse 30 locates wisdom, righteousness, holiness and redemption in Christ. Elena's abilities still matter, but a flawless event cannot manufacture her standing with God.

What does the passage say Christ is for his people? How does that differ from building spiritual standing out of a record of successful work?

Discuss and connect · 10 minutes

Choose three questions. Invite observations from the Scripture passage and the story.

1. What did Elena lose besides her job when she packed away the badge?

2. Which parts of her preparation genuinely served visitors? When did the event become a test of her worth?

3. Why did Priya's simpler plan feel like failure to Elena even though it was workable?

4. How does 1 Corinthians 1:30 change the starting point for Elena's service?

5. What did sharing a task or naming a problem give the team? What did taking over or delaying disclosure cost?

6. Why does sitting with Mae matter even though the decoration stays uneven? What still hurts at the ending?

Keep these distinctions clear

• Do not make careful work the problem. Elena's skills help the team; the burden is treating flawless performance as the condition of belonging.

• The missing hired courtyard tables and the center's existing indoor tables are different resources. The simpler plan is a practical response to rain and a delivery delay.

• The ending does not give Elena a new job or erase the layoff. Sharing work and listening to Mae show a changed next step rather than an instant cure for insecurity.

Suggested closing prayer

Father, help us receive what Christ provides instead of asking our work to establish our worth. Teach us to serve carefully, share honestly and notice the people in front of us. Amen.

Explore the choices

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Read each decision and its two options. In pairs, name the understandable motive behind each option and the cost it carries. Share which response you would explore and why. The consequences below include spoilers; use them after the story.

Allow about two minutes per decision, then share one observation together. Choices change conversations and consequences; Christ is the foundation of the character's belonging.

1. Who will take the next task?

Ben offers to organize the welcome table. Elena knows she could finish it quickly, and she wants visitors to find their way easily. She also knows he came ready to contribute.

Take the welcome table herself

Keep the details consistent and spare Ben an unfamiliar task, while adding to her own list and leaving him less to do.

What happens: Elena gains control but takes on another hour of work. Ben closes his notebook; handing the task back later requires extra explanation.

Share the plan and let Ben lead

Use her experience to help him begin, then leave room for his decisions even if the table looks different.

What happens: Ben develops the welcome table and contributes his own arrangement. Elena has less work, though her fear of being unnecessary does not disappear immediately.

2. What will she tell the team?

The hired courtyard tables will not arrive in time. Elena has not finished the signs either. She wants to avoid worrying the others, but their remaining time depends on knowing the real situation.

Try one more fix before telling them

Look for a solution before adding to their worries, at the risk of delaying decisions they could make together.

What happens: Another supplier cannot solve the problem. Withholding the facts costs the team preparation time and leaves less room to rest and talk.

Name the problems and ask for help

Give the team time to adapt, while allowing them to see the limits she has been trying to hide.

What happens: The team has time to adapt to the smaller indoor plan. Their cooperation leaves space for Elena and Priya to talk before locking up.

3. What needs her attention now?

Mae has asked Elena a question about the neighborhood. Across the room, a paper decoration is hanging unevenly. Elena wants the event to feel welcoming, and she has a person beside her who is trying to join it.

Fix the display before sitting down

Attend to a detail she hopes will make the room inviting, though Mae may be left waiting and the checking may continue.

What happens: Elena improves the display but misses the beginning of Mae's conversation. She can apologize and join later without recovering that moment.

Sit with Mae and listen

Let a harmless imperfection remain while making time for the visitor in front of her.

What happens: Elena listens while a harmless imperfection remains. The event continues through the team's shared work.

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Name (optional): _____ Date: _____

Read 1 Corinthians 1:30 (NIV) on BibleGateway

Jot notes as you watch or read and during the discussion. Finish by choosing one small next step. Personal answers do not need to be shared.

1. What did you notice in the Scripture passage?

2. What pressure was the main character facing?

3. Choose one decision. What motive and consequence did you notice?

4. What is one small next step you could take this week?

Take this question with you

What are you trying to accomplish so that you will finally feel acceptable?

A believer can pursue good work without making performance the price of acceptance in Christ.

Choose one task to share, one limit to name or one person to make time for this week. Notice how receiving help can support careful work rather than cancel its value.

Read or replay the story
Scan to open the interactive story. Print page 4 for your group.