

Work Ethic



MEMORY VERSE: Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave.
Proverbs 12:24

The Bible begins and ends with God's creative work- in the heavens and the earth, in man, in redemption, provision, sustaining the earth, creating the new heaven and the new earth... (Genesis 1, Colossians 1, Revelation 21) When we mistakenly think of work as punishment, rather than a gift, we take shortcuts in life and miss the blessings and purpose God has for us. May God's Word shape your view of work and help you develop a good work ethic so that you may reap the benefits of diligent work.

(All cross references are from Proverbs unless otherwise noted. Consider highlighting these references in green.)



The Value of Work

1. What does Psalm 19:1-6 tell you about God's work?
2. How do the many dictionary definitions of work, both as a noun and a verb, enhance your thoughts of the **potential of effective work**?
3. What are some basic truths about the **purpose of work** and the **danger of idleness**?
18:9

20:4

21:25

22:29

28:19

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

4. How have you seen these verses proven to be true in life?
5. Were you raised to view work as a gift or as a punishment?
6. What are some ways parents might instill a good work ethic in their children?

B The Reward of Diligence and the Cost of Laziness

7. A person who is habitually inactive or lazy is also referred to as a “ sluggard.” Look back at Proverbs 6:6-11. What wisdom do these verses offer the lazy person?
8. What do you think it looks like to work like the ant in real life? What obstacles prevent this
9. How do the following verses contrast a good work ethic with laziness?
12:11

12:24

12:27

13:4

15:19

10. Do any of these contrasts especially stand out to you?

11. What insight does Proverbs give about the importance of **integrity** in work?

13:11

14:23

15:19

18:9

20:17

21:5

21:25

27:23-27

28:6

28:8

12. Do any of these insights challenge or encourage you in your work?



The High Calling of Work

13. Genesis 1 describes God creating the heavens and the earth in 6 days. What did God say about His work, and what did He do after He created everything? Genesis 1:31-2:3

14. God does not want us to be lazy, but He does not want us to work ourselves to death either. Why do you think it is important to have a healthy balance between work and rest?
23:4-5

Exodus 23:12

15. God has a high calling for each of us. In a way, we are all in full time ministry, no matter what our actual work looks like. How do the following verses encourage you as you toil?

13:22

16:3

John 6:26-29

Colossians 3:23-25

16. What are your strengths and weaknesses in your work ethic or in setting goals?

17. How have you seen God's blessings in your life, or in the life of someone you know, as a result of working to please Him?

WALK IN TRUTH



It is human nature to resent having to work, but the truth is that we gain dignity when we do productive work because our lives have purpose. Do you feel you have the right attitude about whatever your work is? Do you value all kinds of work, or do you look down on certain work? Respect all people and all who work hard. We need quality workers in all walks of life. Ask God to give you a renewed vision and purpose in your own work, and a renewed appreciation for the work others do. And thank God that you are able to work.

...all that we have accomplished You have done for us. Isaiah 26:12