

Let's Get to Work! A Worker that Pleases God

Day 1

"Sam, I want you to take the trash out before you go to school today," Dad said as he stopped by Sam's room on his way out the door to work. "The trash can is very full and I really need your help. Make sure you remember or the dog will get into it."

"Uh, sure. I can probably get to it," Sam mumbled as he rolled over in his bed. "I'll get up in just a minute." Thirty minutes later, he jolted awake.

"Oh no! I'm late!" he thought. Sam scrambled to get dressed, grabbed his backpack and a handful of cereal, and dashed out the door to the bus stop. Then he remembered – the trash! Sam darted back inside and grabbed the trash bag. He flung it on the back porch figuring he'd take it to the outside trash can later after school.

That afternoon, Sam walked home from the bus stop with his friend Josh.

"Dude, what's all over your yard?" Josh asked.

Sam looked closer. Pieces of trash littered his yard.

"Oh no!" Sam groaned. "The dog must have gotten into the trash on the back porch!"

"Do you think we should pick it up?" Josh asked.

"Uh, no, it's okay," said Sam. "If we pick it up we'll have to touch all that gross stuff. The wind will probably blow it away."

When Dad arrived home from work, he found trash all over the yard and Sam playing video games.

"Sam, did you take out the trash?" Dad asked.

"Yes," answered Sam.

"Then why is there trash all over the yard?"

"I don't know, Dad. I guess the dog got into it? I put it on the back porch because I was running late. I haven't really had time to pick up the trash yet, but I will after Josh and I finish this level."

Proverbs 10:26 says, "Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,

So is the lazy one to those who send him."

Have you ever had campfire smoke in your eyes? It's not very pleasant. Vinegar by itself is not very pleasant either – it has a very sour taste.

How is a lazy person like smoke to the eyes and vinegar to the teeth? How was Sam like smoke to the eyes and vinegar to the teeth?

What do you think Sam's dad was thinking when he came home and found trash in the yard and Sam playing video games?

Why was Sam running late for school?

What was more important to Sam than obeying what his dad asked him to do?

Sometimes work does not sound like any fun, and it's true that sometimes we may need to do tasks that aren't pleasant. However, work is actually a blessing. It is good that God has given us things to do. God gives us the strength to learn at school, to keep our homes neat and orderly, to help the people in our families, and to bless others by serving them. Leaving tasks poorly done or not done at all is not satisfying to us, creates an inconvenience for others, and doesn't honor God. We become like vinegar and smoke! Yuck!

Journal: During the days that you complete this study on work, keep a journal of two different things. First, write down any times that you did do something you were supposed to do and any excuses you hear yourself making to your parents or teachers about why you should not (or did not) complete your work. Second, write down times that you did your work well or did work that needed to be done without even being asked.

Excuse Journal

Work Well Done Journal

Day 2

Read Colossians 3:22-25

This passage of scripture was written to workers. We don't have slaves in our culture, but at the time that the New Testament was written, many people had slaves who worked for them. Masters were instructed to treat their slaves fairly, and slaves were instructed to work well.

Slaves (workers) are to obey their masters not with _____

but with _____ fearing the _____.

What will our work look like if we have respect for God rather than just pleasing men?

What does verse 23 say our attitude should be concerning work? _____

Day 3

Read Proverbs 6:6-11

What is a sluggard? _____

What can we learn from the ant? _____

What is the problem with too much rest? _____

Read Proverbs 26:12-16

What is foolish about being "right in your own eyes?" _____

The sluggard sets his own standards for work. His way is the best way. Meanwhile, he is ignorant of what he does not know.

Draw a picture of one of these Proverbs that talks about the sluggard:

Day 4

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

When Paul was with the Thessalonian church, how did he keep from being a burden to them?

Look up these words in a dictionary and write down the definitions:

Disciplined: _____

Idle:

Why do you think that Paul said if a person is not willing to work, then they should not eat?

Day 5: Application

What is one new thing that you learned this week from God's word? _____

As you look over your journal from the week, do you see more excuses or more jobs well done?

Think about one time during the week that you were tempted to be lazy in your work. What

was more important to you at that point than obeying? _____

What is one thing that you will do differently as a result of this study? _____

What does working hard have to do with loving other people? _____
