

1. Work should be done with _____

*Proverbs 12:14 "Wise words bring many benefits, and **hard work** brings rewards." (NLT=New Living Translation)*

Proverbs 12:24 "Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave." (NLT)

- God values hard work and diligence

James 1:3-4 "For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing." (NLT)

- Diligence and hard work produce benefits

2. Work should be done without _____

Proverbs 6:6-8 "Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and become wise! ⁷ Though they have no prince or governor or ruler to make them work, ⁸ they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter." (NLT)

*Proverbs 10:26 "**Lazy** people irritate their employers, like vinegar to the teeth or smoke in the eyes." (NLT)*

Proverbs 18:9 "A lazy person is as bad as someone who destroys things." (NLT)

- Laziness is a character issue
- Laziness has consequences

3. Work should be seen as a _____

Genesis 2:15 "The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it." (NLT)

- Work comes from God
- Work should be done as a stewardship

Colossians 3:23 "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people." (NLT)

4. Work discovering _____

Proverbs 22:29 "Do you see any truly competent workers? They will serve kings rather than working for ordinary people." (NLT)

*Ecclesiastes 2:24 "So I decided there is nothing better than to enjoy food and drink and to find satisfaction in **work**. Then I realized that these pleasures are from the hand of God." (NLT)*

- Work allows us to discover our potential
- Work allows us to experience satisfaction

5. Work hard but balance _____

Psalms 127:2 "It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, anxiously working for food to eat; for God gives rest to his loved ones." (NLT)

- Work must be balanced with rest
- Work must be balanced with other core values

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Discussion Questions:

1. Describe the work ethic you grew up with.
2. A wise work ethic embraces diligence and hard work. Why does God value hard work and what are the benefits from this type of work ethic?
3. Why is laziness a character issue? What does laziness look like? (Taking a vacation is NOT laziness.) What are some of the consequences of laziness?
4. Discuss the fact that work comes from God and Adam was given a job immediately after creation. Why is work a blessing?
5. How does work help us discover purpose and meaning? What has your experience been like?
6. How can we experience a work-life balance? How do we manage energy not simply time?

