

# Proverbs - Be a Wise Guy for God

## Hard Work vs. Laziness

### Week 6

*The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.* Proverbs 13:4

#### Welcome

Opening Prayer

Class Topics

Week 1	Purposes of Proverbs
Week 2	The Simple, the Mocker and the Fool
Week 3	God and Man
Week 4	All in the Family
Week 5	Win Friends and Influence People
Week 6	Hard Work Versus Laziness

#### Win Friends and Influence People - Review

Some people try to make friends with money, gifts, bribes and flattery  
Such friends are unreliable and leave when riches dry up  
True friend from God sticks closer than a brother

Friends to avoid are talkers, tempers, stingy, fools, drunkards, gluttons  
Poor friends: pride, temper, gossip, violent, selfish, unfaithful, unsympathetic, deceitful, quarrelsome

Good friends are trustworthy, encouraging, forgiving, loving, cheerful, patient, peaceful, gracious,  
counseling, helpful in trouble

Friendship requires maintenance; Good friends correct each other

A good reputation is valuable and comes from love and faithfulness  
Enemies can become friends when we are right with God

#### The Sluggard

What is the cause and the effect of the life of the sluggard?

Proverbs 24:30-34 = Lacks judgment to know that too much rest (laziness) leads to poverty

What is a big part of the sluggard's problem?

Proverbs 6:9 = Sleeps a lot, Won't get out of bed when it's time

Proverbs 19:15 = Deep sleep

Proverbs 26:14 = Too much time in bed

What are some other problems of the sluggard?

Proverbs 22:13 = Creates excuses to avoid work

Proverbs 26:15 = Doesn't follow through and complete what he starts

Proverbs 26:12, 16 = Wise in his own eyes

Why is the sluggard's way of life so frustrating?

Proverbs 20:4 = Too lazy to work when needed to prepare for the future

Proverbs 21:25-26 = Wants more but is too lazy to work to do anything about it

Proverbs 15:19 = Too lazy to remove the obstacles and troubles in his life

How damaging is the sluggard's way of life?

Proverbs 18:9 = As bad as one who is violent and destructive

How does the sluggard affect his employer?

Proverbs 10:26 = Frustrating and irritating when trying to get productive work out of him

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### The Sluggard and Others

What simple and common example should the sluggard look to?

Proverbs 6:6-9 = the ant is naturally industrious, disciplined & productive without prodding

Other than laziness, what else leads to poverty?

Proverbs 20:17 (21:16) = Fraud - Deceit

Proverbs 21:17 = Too much pleasure and partying

Proverbs 21:20 = Over-indulgent, Lives beyond means

Proverbs 23:21 = Drunkards and gluttons

Proverbs 28:20, 22 = Too eager to get rich

Proverbs 13:11 (20:21) = Quick riches

### The Diligent Worker

Compare the sluggard with the diligent worker

Proverbs 10:4 = *Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth*

Proverbs 10:5 = A wise son helps when work is needed, a disgraceful son doesn't

Proverbs 12:24 = Hard workers become leaders while lazy workers become slaves

Proverbs 12:27 = Lazy man rushes to use up what he has, diligent man consumes carefully

Proverbs 13:4 = *The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are satisfied*

Proverbs 14:23 = *Hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty*

Proverbs 20:13 = Too much sleep makes one poor, staying awake makes one prosperous

Proverbs 21:5 = *The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty*

Proverbs 22:29 = Skilled workers are desired by top leaders, poor workers get poor leaders

Proverbs 28:19 = He who works gets abundance, he who *chases fantasies* gets abundant poverty

What is one motivator for the diligent worker?

Proverbs 16:26 = Needs of life drive people to work hard

What does Solomon say about overworking?

Proverbs 23:4-5 = *Do not wear yourself out to get rich*, riches don't last long

### Keeping Priorities Straight

What comparisons are given to help us with our priorities?

Proverbs 15:16 = *Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil*

Proverbs 15:17 = Better a meager meal with love than a smorgasbord with hatred

Proverbs 16:8 = *Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice*

Proverbs 17:1 = *Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife*

Proverbs 28:6 = Better poor and blameless than rich and perverse

Proverbs 12:9 = Better to be unknown with needs met than famous with nothing

What is the danger in pretending to be something you are not?

Proverbs 13:7 (14:8) = Doing so is foolishness and does not lead to success

How might poverty be a blessing in disguise?

Proverbs 13:8 = Riches can destroy one's life or lead to threats and danger from others

Why shouldn't the pursuit of wealth be our top priority?

Proverbs 11:4 = *Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death*

Proverbs 11:28 = *Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive*

What prayer should we keep in mind as we set our priorities?

Proverbs 30:7-9 = *Give me neither poverty nor riches* or I may disown or dishonor You

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### Prosperity

Where does prosperity come from?

Proverbs 10:22 = *The blessing of the Lord brings wealth without troubles of ill-gotten gain (10:2)*

How is wisdom related to prosperity?

Proverbs 8:12, 18-21 = *Wisdom lives with prudence, riches, honor, wealth, prosperity*

What does Solomon say about saving money?

Proverbs 13:11 = *He who gathers money little by little makes it grow*

What does Solomon say about borrowing money?

Proverbs 22:7 = *The borrower is servant to the lender*

Proverbs 22:26-27 = *Don't borrow or you could lose everything if you can't pay*

Proverbs 6:1-5 = *If you've accepted someone else's debt, try to free yourself from it*

### The Poor

How are we to deal with the poor and needy?

Proverbs 14:31 = *Oppressors of the poor hate God, whoever is kind to the needy honors God*

Proverbs 29:7 = *The righteous care about justice for the poor, the wicked have no such concern*

Proverbs 31:8-9 = *Speak up for those who cannot ... defend the rights of the poor and needy*

How will God treat us if we give to the poor?

Proverbs 11:24-25 = *A generous man will prosper*

Proverbs 19:17 = *Giving to the poor is like lending to the Lord and He rewards the giver*

Proverbs 22:9 = *A generous man will himself be blessed*

How will God treat us if we ignore the poor?

Proverbs 21:13 = *If we ignore the cry of the poor, God will ignore our cry*

Proverbs 28:27 = *He who closes his eyes to them receives many curses*

How are the rich and poor similar?

Proverbs 22:2 = *The Lord is Maker of them all*

### Modern Parable Match-up

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| a. Easy come, easy go.  | 1. Proverbs 10:15  |
| b. Ask a silly question, get a silly answer.                                | 2. Proverbs 20:13  |
| c. Haste makes waste.   | 3. Proverbs 19:2   |
| d. Two heads are better than one.   | 4. Proverbs 13:11  |
| e. Sticks and stones may break my bones,<br>but words can never hurt me.    | 5. Proverbs 26:4-5 |
| f. Early to bed and early to rise<br>makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise. | 6. Proverbs 27:17  |
| g. Money talks.   | 7. Proverbs 27:10  |
| h. A friend in need is a friend indeed.                                     | 8. Proverbs 26:2   |
- = a4, b5, c3, d6, e8, f2, g1, h7

Proverbial Quiz (page 4) = Go over answers

### Closing Prayer

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### Proverbial Quiz

#### 1. Match the two Bible Proverb halves in each grouping:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, | a. consider its ways and be wise! (6:6)                         |
| 2. Lazy hands make a man poor, but                | b. so is a sluggard to those who send him. (10:26)              |
| 3. Go to the ant, you sluggard;                   | c. diligent hands bring wealth. (10:4)                          |
| 4. Hard work brings a profit, but                 | d. mere talk leads only to poverty. (14:23)                     |
| = 1b, 2c, 3a, 4d                                  |   |
| 5. For lack of guidance a nation falls, but       | e. fix your gaze directly before you. (4:25)                    |
| 6. Plans fail for lack of counsel, but            | f. many advisers make victory sure. (11:14)                     |
| 7. Let your eyes look straight ahead,             | g. with many advisers they succeed. (15:22)                     |
| = 5f, 6g, 7e                                      |   |
| 8. Do not wear yourself out to get rich;          | h. the righteous will thrive like a green leaf. (11:28)         |
| 9. Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but    | i. another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth. (13:7)    |
| 10. One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; | j. he who gathers money little by little makes it grow. (13:11) |
| 11. Dishonest money dwindles away, but            | k. have the wisdom to show restraint. (23:4)                    |
| = 8k, 9h, 10i, 11j                                |   |

#### 2. Fill in the blanks of these English proverbs:

A rolling stone gathers no moss

A stitch in time saves nine

A watched pot never boils

A woman's work is never done

Actions speak louder than words

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy

Beggars can't be choosers

Don't change horses in midstream

Don't count your chickens before they are hatched

Don't put the cart before the horse

Early to bed and early to rise

    makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise

Enough is enough

Every man has his price

Failing to plan is planning to fail

First things first

Hard work never did anyone any harm

Haste makes waste

If a job is worth doing it is worth doing well

If at first you don't succeed try, try and try again

If you can't stand the heat get out of the kitchen

Money doesn't grow on trees

Money makes the world go round

Necessity is the mother of invention

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today

Nothing is certain but death and taxes

Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely

Practice makes perfect

Put your best foot forward

Rome wasn't built in a day

Speak softly and carry a big stick

Strike while the iron is hot

The early bird catches the worm

The ends justify the means

The squeaky wheel gets the grease

There's more than one way to skin a cat

There's no smoke without fire

There's no such thing as a free lunch

There's no such thing as bad publicity

To the victor go the spoils

Too many cooks spoil the broth

Where there's a will there's a way