

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of August 16, 2015

This Week's Focus: The sluggard sees work as a necessary evil but through the Gospel, we recognize that our world was designed by God and He saw the value in work and effort. We are part of creation and our effort each day is an act of worship to the Creator.

"Procrastination is not laziness," I tell him. "It is fear. Call it by its right name, and forgive yourself." **Julia Cameron**

"Sloth makes all things difficult, but industry all easy; and he that riseth late must trot all day, and shall scarce overtake his business at night; while laziness travels so slowly, that poverty soon overtakes him." **Benjamin Franklin**

"I've heard that hard work never killed anyone, but I say why take the chance?" **Ronald Reagan**

"We often miss opportunity because it's dressed in overalls and looks like work." **Thomas A. Edison**

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. **1 Corinthians 10:31**

Related Texts: Proverbs 6:6-8, 10:4, 10:5, 12:24, 12:27, 15:19, 19:15, 21:25, 22:13, 22:29, 24:30-34, 26:14-15, 28:19; Ephesians 4:28, 5:14-16; 1 Corinthians 10:31

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What was most inspiring about this week's sermon/text?
- What is a sluggard? Which of the following characteristics of the sluggard do you wrestle with most: laziness, procrastination, taking the path of least resistance, apathy?
- Read Proverbs 22:13. Is the sluggard afraid or is he making excuses? What is he really afraid of?

- According to Proverbs 19:15, Proverbs 20:13, and Proverbs 24:30-34, sleep is detrimental to living a life characterized by wisdom. Why? Contrast this with the principle of Sabbath rest.
- How is the sluggard self-seeking, a pleasure seeker, and short-sighted. Reference Proverbs 21:25 and Proverbs 6:6-8.
- What are the destructive consequences of being slothful? How is laziness a detriment to the sluggard's friends, family, and community?
- Explain how the workaholic is really a sluggard.
- What evidence is there in Scripture that work is a gift to humans from God? Why then do we often view it as a curse?
- The Gospel teaches us that work is meant to be viewed and performed as an act of worship to God. Reference 1 Corinthians 10:31. What practical ways can we remind ourselves of this daily? How does this transform how we approach our work and result in increased productivity?

Next Week's Text: Marriage