

Wisdom Talks About Work: Finding God's Purpose in Our Everyday Lives

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Lesson One, Level Four Why Is Work So Hard?

When somebody tells you that they have a job for you to do, are you excited? Or do you think, "Oh, boy, this is going to be hard/boring/not fun..."

Is work good or bad?

The Bible has an answer for this question.

Read Genesis 2:8-9 and Genesis 2:15-17

1. According to Genesis 2:15, did God give Adam work to do in the Garden of Eden? _____. What was this work?

God gave Adam work to do in the perfect Garden of Eden. What might this teach us about work?

When Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God, work changed and became hard.

Read Genesis 3:1-19

2. What were some changes that happened to Adam's work because of sin? _____

Here's what we can learn from these Bible passages: God created people to work. Work is GOOD. However, because of sin, work is also HARD.

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Lesson Two, Level Four WORK: God's Path of Blessing

The Bible teaches us that work is good. God created us to work. However, work is also hard because it was cursed after sin entered the world.

Because work is hard, many people will choose the "path of least resistance". They see work as a necessary evil and do "just enough" to get by. These people choose the path of laziness.

The book of Proverbs warns us about laziness while also encouraging us to follow God's path of blessing: work.

Read Proverbs 10:1-5

As you read each verse, fill in the chart below. Then, ask yourself which side of the chart most reflects your life up to this point.

God's Path of Blessing: Work

Man's Natural Path: Laziness

Makes his parents: <i>Glad</i>	Makes his parents: <i>Grieve</i>
Does what is right and is delivered from:	Tries to get rich through:
God keeps him from being:	God thwarts his cravings; He is never satisfied.
He becomes:	He stays:
He acts wisely and gains respect.	He acts foolishly and gains shame and disgrace.

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Lesson Three, Level Four

Why Should You Work Hard?

Read Colossians 3:23-25

According to these verses, why should we work hard?

Does the thought that **God cares** about **your** work change the way you think about work? If so, how?

How would you work differently if Jesus Christ were standing beside you, watching you work?

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11

According to verse 11, who gives us the strength to work hard?

What happens when we work hard? (see end of verse 11)

Do you desire to glorify God through your work?

Thanksgiving: _____

Prayer Request: _____

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Lesson Four, Level Four

Are You Complaining?

In our last lesson, we learned that God cares about our work. We need to work hard so that we can glorify God through our work. We need to not only work hard, but also have a good attitude in our work.

Read Colossians 3:12-17

According to these verses, what are some good attitudes that we need to have while we live and work?

Do these attitudes characterize your life and work?

All the time

Most of the time

Sometimes

Seriously?

Are you kidding?

All of us struggle with maintaining good attitudes in our work. That's why we need God's help! What work is most difficult for you to do with a good attitude?

Do you believe that God can change your heart so that you can serve Him joyfully?

Talk to God about this. If you are struggling with bad attitudes about work, ask God for His help. Ask God to help you in the areas of work that are challenging you right now.

Read Philippians 4:13