

What God Says About

DISCUSSION GOAL



Discuss what “work is a calling from God” means. Discuss what it looks like to avoid the obstacles that keep us from fulfilling the work God has called us to do.

ICE BREAKER



What was your first job or what was your favorite job and why?

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

Passages from the book of Proverbs | ESV

6:6-11 Go to the ant, O sluggard;
consider her ways, and be wise.

⁷ Without having any chief,
officer, or ruler,

⁸ she prepares her bread in summer
and gathers her food in harvest.

⁹ How long will you lie there, O sluggard?
When will you arise from your sleep?

¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest,

¹¹ and poverty will come upon you like a robber,
and want like an armed man.

12:24 The hand of the diligent will rule,
while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

12:11 Whoever works his land will have plenty of
bread,
but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks
sense.

14:23 In all toil there is profit,
but mere talk tends only to poverty.

16:3 Commit your work to the LORD,
and your plans will be established.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: Our work is a calling from God.

Key Question: What obstacles keep us from fulfilling our calling to work?

1. Laziness. (vv. 6:6-11; 12:24)
2. Distractedness. (vv. 12:11; 14:23)
3. Selfishness. (v. 16:3)

DISCUSSION



- How would you describe your view of work? Is it a gift, a necessary part of life, or something far more significant? Have you ever considered that your work matters to God? Read Colossians 3:23-24. How does this verse support the idea that our work matters to God?
- Proverbs 6:6-11 gives us a warning against laziness. Do you struggle with the temptation of laziness? How has giving into laziness affected your life and work? What's helped you overcome this temptation?
- Proverbs 12:11 says "he who follows worthless efforts has no sense." What are some "worthless efforts" that have distracted you from work? What does Proverbs 14:23 say about distraction?
- Read Proverbs 16:3. What does it look like to commit your work to the Lord? What does it look like to work out of selfishness and worship your career/self? How might your work be/become an act of worship to God instead?
- Read Genesis 2:4-7,15. How does knowing that our call to work goes all the way back to creation change the way you view work? Read Genesis 2:1-3. After the 6-day work of creation, God rested. What do you think the significance is of God resting? In our busy modern world, how can we balance fulfilling God's call to work with taking proper time to rest?

LIFE APPLICATION



The Proverbs teach us that our work is a calling from God. Of the three obstacles we've discussed today (laziness, distractedness, selfishness), which one do you find the hardest to overcome? In what ways can your group commit to helping each other overcome the obstacles that keep you from fulfilling the call to work?

jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS


