

# **Get Smart: A Study in Proverbs**

## **Growth Group Leader's Supplement**

### **Study 3: Good Work**

#### Growth Point Insights

Questions are always guidelines. Never feel obligated to cover every one. Always put a stress on participation. If someone has a different question, by all means pursue it.

#### **Devotional Seed:**

The devotional seed is intended to stimulate conversation as an introduction to the discussion.

Is it God's desire that we work? Is unemployment sinful?

The point to be careful here is that not all unemployment is sinful. Laziness is certainly against God's wisdom, but unemployment can result from many things.

#### **Deeper Roots**

These questions are intended to promote study and deepen understanding.

1. Thinking of this study and the previous study, is it proper for a person to be motivated to work hard in order to gain wealth?

Our last study really focused on how wealth is dangerous when we have an undue focus on money. Wealth itself is helpful and can be used for good but as 1 Tim 6 teaches, the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. It may be hard but we can be motivated by wealth to work hard, without allowing it to become an idol

2. Reviewing some of the scriptures above, what does it mean to work wisely?

This is more of a summary question and may serve well as an introductory question. Explore themes such as diligence vs laziness, getting your priorities correct. Also there is a theme of honesty and fairness in our business. A few proverbs talk about the value of skill. Also the theme of getting down to work and not chasing fantasies or just being all talk.

3. Consider 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15. What does it say about work? How does it compare to proverbs.

The main theme of this is idleness and the need to make a contribution. Some people were active but not productive. Being busybodies but not making a helpful contribution to the community.

There is a clear example of doing your best not to be a burden to others. Perhaps you may need to talk about when it is appropriate to reach out for help and to ensure that people do not feel shame when they have real needs.

4. Would you say that God is interested in our work? Is work an necessary evil or a part of God's plan.

These proverbs seem to indicate that work is part of God's will for our life on earth. Going back to Genesis 2, you can make the point that Adam in the garden was called to work and care for the garden. God made us to work . it is not clear that God made us just to have fun with work being a necessary way to pay the bills.

5. Does Canada's social assistance program line up with God's wisdom on work?

This could be a controversial question which will touch on the distinction between laziness and real need. While we do want to help people in difficult situations, we do not want to create a system that rewards people who do not want to work.

6. When does leisure become laziness. How do we recognize this?

This question is not easy to answer and will perhaps call for more personal reflection. Is it possible to measure the hours we work and the hours we play and make a judgment call?

### **Bearing Fruit**

These questions are designed to be a little more personal and application oriented. Use these questions to focus more on sharing. It helps if as a leader, you are willing to share your life with the group.

### **Branching Out**

Each month your group will be asked to focus some time on outreach and service. Plan to spend some time planning and thinking about how your group can reach out together.

We will use this space to help your group integrate with the larger outreach efforts of the church.

The current Challenge is to work together on a service project. There are a couple of options at the info desk on Sunday scheduled for Oct 3. Perhaps your group knows of a needy person who could use a practical hand with clean up or yard work. Perhaps there is a local charity that needs a hand or a park that could be cleaned up. Brainstorm together but try to make some definite plans for October.

There will also be a food drive for our local school through the Thanksgiving season.