

Ignite: Work Ethic

Objective: By the end of the lesson the student will understand that it has always been God's expectation for man to work and there are consequences for not working.

Bible Verses:

Proverbs 6: 6-11

I Corinthians 10:31

Proverbs 10: 4-5

II Thessalonians 3:10-12

Genesis 2:2

Colossian 3:23

Genesis 2:15

Psalms 19:1

Essential Question? Does God expect you to work? If so, what does he want you to work at?

Opening:

Read or play Aesop's fable "The Aunt and the Grasshopper"

There are many versions on the internet that you can either read or play on YouTube. Find one that is appropriate for the age group you are teaching. I used the following version with Middle School students, and they enjoyed this version. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svBrlehmMo>

Q. Did you know there is a verse in the bible that is very similar to Aesop's Fable? Does anyone know the scripture?

A. Proverbs 6: 6-11

Discuss the passage:

Why did God use the example of an ant? What did he want us to learn from the Ant? What is a sluggard? How does the bible compare/contrast the ant and the sluggard? What happens to the sluggard?

Content:

Let's start at the beginning and see what God has to say about Work.

Does God Work? Read Genesis 2:2

The bible begins with the creation story and shows us that God works. In Psalm 19:1 God says that he reveals himself through his work. When we look at the work God has done, we learn about God and what he is like.

What did God want Adam to do in the Garden of Eden? Read Genesis 2:15

From the very beginning God demonstrated that he works and that he expected Adam to work. Our work reveals something about us as well. Our work ethic shows our character, our motivations, the skills and abilities we have or are working to acquire.

If we want to please God and be like God, should we be concerned about our work?

In I Corinthians 10:31 God expects our work to reflect his nature/character.

Does God believe that work has intrinsic value for his people?

Discussion: So, what should our work look like when we are trying to please God?

Independent Practice:

Have students look at some of the following scriptures about work and have them decide what else God has to say about work. (You can do this individually or in small groups) I prefer small groups if there are enough students. Then have everyone come back together and share about what else they have learned about God's view of work.

Proverbs 10: 4-5

Duet 15: 9-11

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13

II Thessalonians 3: 10-12

Ephesians 4:28

Ecclesiastes 5:18-19

Colossians 3:23

Psalms 104: 23-24

Proverbs 14:23

I Timothy 5:8

Close/Reflect

Our work ethic should reflect the work ethic of Jesus. John 4:34 "My food, said Jesus, is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work"

Reflection: What can I do today to prepare to contribute to Gods work in the future?

**Parts of the lesson were ideas taken and simplified from GotQuestions.org

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-work.html>