

— weekly —
**STUDY
GUIDE**

WORK MATTERS

WEEK 4 // *Raising Kids to Work*

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Introduction

Welcome to week four of the Work Matters study. Last week we learned that a dishwasher's work can be just as important as a pastor's. It's not the task that defines the work's spiritual significance; it's the attitude of the worker. This week we seek to find the answer to the question: How do we prepare the next generation to work? As you begin, prepare your mind to receive the lesson God wants to communicate to you this week.

In this guide you will find questions for your own personal study along with questions to discuss at a Bible study, neighborhood gathering, or at the dinner table with family and friends. Enjoy!

Personal Study

Proverbs is a book filled with bulletin board worthy advice on how to live your daily life according to God's incredible wisdom.

READ

Read Proverbs 6:6-11, 10:1-5, 24:30-34 and consider the questions below.

CONSIDER

- What are the common themes found in these passages?

- How would you describe the work ethic of the children (offspring, grandchildren, cousins, friends or neighbors) in your life? In what ways do each of them work hard? What large or small influences are responsible for their attitudes towards work?

Personal Study Continued...

READ

Read Proverbs 22:6 and consider the questions below.

CONSIDER

- How does this verse apply to a child's work ethic?

- Make two separate lists of influences that "train up" hard workers and sluggards.

HARD WORKER

- Regular chores & responsibilities
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

SLUGARD

- Excessive TV
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

- What are some specific ways that you can instill a godly work ethic in the children in your life?

PRAY

Spend a few minutes thanking God for the young people in your life. Ask Him to show you simple ways to influence their attitudes toward work. Likewise, ask God to reveal any ungodly attitudes you might be modeling to the young people following in your footsteps.

Group Study

ICE BREAKER

Have each person in the group describe the person in their life that taught them the most about hard work. (*Example:* Mom, Uncle Mike, neighbor Joe).

Previously, we learned two key truths about work:

1. All work is spiritual
2. God instills us with skills

DISCUSS

- What new insights or questions about work came to your mind over the last week?
- What changes would you like to make regarding your work?

In the book “Boys Adrift” by Dr. Leonard Sax, a family physician and psychologist, we learn of five factors driving the growing epidemic of unmotivated boys and underachieving young men in our society today.

The five factors are:

- Teaching methods in schools
 - Prescription drugs used to tame and settle rambunctiousness
 - Excessive video game use
 - Environmental toxins from plastics
 - Devaluation of masculinity within American culture
-
- In what ways have you see the influences on this list impede the development of a godly work ethic in young people?
 - If you were making a list like this, what would be your top five factors?

READ

Read Proverbs 22:6 and discuss the questions below.

DISCUSS

- In your opinion, what are the most effective ways to instill a godly work ethic in young people?
- There is a famous African proverb that states, “It takes a whole village to raise a child.” What role do non-parental adults play in a child’s life? Does our current church culture do this well? Why or why not?
- Who is a young person in your life that you feel responsible to invest in?

PRAY

Close your time together by praying for the young people in your life. Ask God to reveal specific ways you can encourage and instill godly attitudes into each of them.