

— weekly —  
**STUDY  
GUIDE**

## WORK MATTERS

### WEEK 5 // *Idle Work & Idol Work*

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## *Introduction*

Welcome to week five of the Work Matters study. Last week we learned that it is the responsibility of the parents and a supporting Christian community to prepare children for productive lives as adults. This week we seek to find the answer to the question: How do we find a healthy balance of work and rest? 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*

King Solomon is considered one of the wisest men in human history. His insightful thoughts were captured in the book of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes nearly 3000 years ago. Today, you can find them on bumper stickers, bulletin boards, and social media posts. His inspired observations on life have proven themselves generation after generation.

### **READ**

Read Proverbs 24:30-34, Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 and consider the questions below.

### **CONSIDER**

- These passages present two extremes: the sloth and the workaholic. What motivates them to live the way they do?

- What motivates you? (Wealth, relationships, independence, power, or prestige?)

## *Personal Study Continued...*

### **READ**

Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-17 and consider the questions below.

### **CONSIDER**

- Worship is the act of giving your heart, soul, mind, and strength to someone or something. Is it possible for work to become an idol of worship? If so, how?

- What healthy boundaries could be set to protect yourself from worshiping your work?

### **PRAY**

Spend a few minutes declaring your devotion to God alone. If you have a tendency to give more of yourself to your work than to God, confess that to Him and embrace His forgiveness. Also, ask God to reveal any unhealthy behaviors that are preventing you from giving Him your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

# Group Study

## ICE BREAKER

Have each person in the group describe the part of their job that gives them the most satisfaction.

Previously, we learned this key truth about work:

- It is the responsibility of the parents and a supporting Christian community to prepare children for productive lives as adults.

## DISCUSS

- What new insights or questions about work came to your mind over the last week?
- What obstacles are impeding the development of a healthy work ethic in today's youth? What can we do to combat these challenges?
- What can we proactively do to instill a Godly work ethic in the next generation?

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon reflects on his life and concludes that most of the effort we put into acquiring power, prestige, and wealth is meaningless. In the passage below, he prescribes a simple yet profound recipe for a balanced life.

## READ

Read Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 and discuss the questions below:

## DISCUSS

- Why do you think a man like Solomon, who was arguably one of the richest and most powerful men to ever live, would endorse such a simple approach to life?
- Which piece of Solomon's simple advice do you need to implement in your life?

## READ

Read Philippians 4:12-13 and discuss the questions below.

## DISCUSS

- What times in your life have you felt the most content? Why?
- Why do you think contentment is such an elusive feeling?
- How do you think Paul discovered the secret to contentment?

## PRAY

Close your time together by asking your group members for specific ways you can be praying for them. Pray also for a healthy approach to work and rest. Lastly, ask God to strengthen you with the ability to be content in all situations.