

## Week 3: Work for the Lord

**Message Overview:** Hard work honors God and reflects diligence, while laziness leads to emptiness.

**Key Scripture:** Proverbs 13:4; 14:23; Luke 10:38–42

### Key points:

- Introduction:
  - Show a funny video of someone procrastinating or share a personal story about laziness or procrastination
    - Waiting until the last minute to do a project, barely making a deadline, or coming up with a last-second excuse
  - Everyone struggles with laziness or motivation sometimes, but consistent laziness robs us of joy and purpose.
    - Consider: school, sports, chores, or even faith
    - Some people try to do everything in their own strength, while others avoid hard work entirely
    - The key is to work from a place of grace, not guilt or self-reliance
  - “That guy” takes no pleasure in working hard.
- The sluggard
  - Proverbs 13:4 – the lazy crave but achieve nothing
    - Dreams with no follow through
    - The diligent person is rewarded for their hardwork
    - Compare an athlete who trains every day to one who just talks about wanting to be great but never puts in the effort
  - Proverbs 14:23 – talk without action leads to poverty
    - Talk is cheap – real growth comes from action
    - Hard work doesn’t just lead to financial success; it builds character, discipline, and resilience
    - Think about a student who consistently studies versus one who crams the night before – who will truly learn?
  - Illustration: sloths
    - Fascinating animals, yet very unproductive animals
- Balance of work and rest
  - Luke 10:38-42: Martha & Mary’s story teaches the importance of prioritizing Jesus while working hard
    - Martha was working, Mary was worshipping – Jesus said Mary had chosen the better thing
    - Does this mean work is bad? No!
    - The lesson isn’t to stop working – it’s to work from a place of grace, not stress, worry, or seeking approval
  - Practice balance: work diligently but don’t neglect rest and time with God
    - We don’t work to earn God’s love; we work because we are loved.
    - Ephesians 2:8-10: saved by grace, created for good works.
    - Work is an act of worship when done for God’s glory.
- Examples
  - Schoolwork and studying

- Colossians 3:23
  - Studying hard isn't just about grades – it's about developing discipline and honoring God with the brain He gave you.
  - Do you do your schoolwork with integrity? Or do you cut corners?
- Sports & extracurricular activities
  - How you participate in activities matters
  - 1 Corinthians 10:31
  - Are you showing good sportsmanship? Are you working hard even when no one is watching?
- Serving at home and church
  - Work doesn't stop at school – how do you serve your family?
  - Are you helping out at home or making excuses?
  - Do you look for ways to serve at church?
    - As simple as setting up chairs, helping younger students, etc.
- Wrap up
  - Jesus worked tirelessly for us – healing, teaching, and ultimately giving His life on the cross
  - He invites us to work hard, but not from a place of stress or exhaustion, but from a place of grace.
  - Jesus calls us to rest in Him while still being diligent in what we're called to do.
  - Write down one specific area where you will work hard for God's glory this week.
    - Studying for a test, showing up early, helping at home, etc.
    - Pray daily, asking God for strength to work from grace
  - Hard work isn't about earning God's love – it's a response to His love.
- **Gospel Proclamation:** We cannot work our way to salvation – Jesus has already done the work on the cross. But because of His grace, we are called to live lives of purpose, working hard to reflect His love in all we do. When we put our trust in Jesus, our work is no longer about proving ourselves – it's about bringing Him glory. Our ultimate work is to trust Jesus.

**Key question/application:** Ask yourself: Am I working hard with purpose, or am I making excuses? What is one area where you can put in more effort this week to honor God with your work?

**Community Group questions:**

- Do you struggle with procrastination or working too hard in your own strength?
- How does resting in Jesus change your perspective on work?
- How does knowing God's grace change the way you approach school, sports, or other responsibilities?
- What is one way you can work hard for God's glory this week?
- How can we encourage each other to work diligently but also rest in Christ?