**Diligence**

**Sword Drill: Proverbs**

* Have the children identify where this is in the Bible

**Learning activity:** For this lesson, it will probably be best to save the learning activity **for the** end as it will require greater time and will replace game time for the evening.

**Lesson introduction:** Ask everyone in the room to think of something they enjoy doing. Then go around the room and ask kids and adults to share. Observe that most of you did not say things like: Chores, go to work, exercise, eat my vegetables, or even read the Bible, memorize scripture, minister to others, and go to church. Most of us chose hobbies, play, and leisure.

* There is nothing wrong with hobbies, play, and leisure,
* but God has work that he created us to do and we must fight laziness and grow in diligence **if we are to accomplish the things God has for us to do.**
* **Ephesians 2:10** For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life.

**Transition Curriculum logo:** The gospel is a “Truth believed that changes everything”. The gospel can be summarized in five simple truths: *(Refer to Five finger gospel lesson)*   
1) I am a sinner.  
2) God will judge my sin.  
3) Jesus was not a sinner.   
4) He died for my sins and rose the third day.  
5) If I turn from my sin and receive him, God will save me.   
When God saves us he begins changing our attitudes, character, service, and priorities. In tonight’s lesson we will turn our attention to Godly character. **Godly character describes the things that we know to be true about God that should also be true of us.**

**Worship/prayer: Sin is a drag that will pull you down, I’m Yours Lord.**

**Three ☹ Principles of work:** *(move quickly through these)*

1. There is more work than play **(groan together)**

* + Exodus 20:9

2. Work must be done well **(groan together)**

* + Colossians 3:23
  + God does **not expect perfection**, but he does expect our **best**.

3. God will judge our work **(groan together)**

* + Matthew 25:21

**Diligent people stay with a task until it is finished well…They have what’s called: Sticktoitiveness!**

**God expects diligence in two areas:** we tend to be naturally diligent in our play, hobbies, and leisure, we must learn to become diligent in:

**1. Our Work**

* Colossians 3:23 “Whatever you do, do it **heartily** as unto the Lord and not unto men.”

**2. Our Faith**

* Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who **earnestly** seek him.
* Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me, when you **seek me with all your heart.**
* 2 Peter 1:5 For this very reason, **make every effort** to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Sword Drill: Proverbs 6:6-8**

“Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief,

officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.”

**Two lessons from the ant:**

1. **They are Self-motivated**

* The first lesson from the ant is that they don’t require supervision in their responsibilities.
* Do your parents have to keep on you to finish home work, finish chores, be diligent in practice, constantly holding your hand every step of the way.
  + Every body needs encouragement, but **to need constant attention to complete one’s work is a mark of laziness which is a work of the flesh**.
  + We are growing in diligence when we no longer need our parents, teachers, and other leaders to constantly be checking in on us.

1. **They are Productive.**

* Ants are more than just busy, they are productive in their work.
* **Our work:** Sometimes we complete assignments, or chores, or music practice, or sports practice in a way that is just “going through the motions”.
* **Our faith:** Don’t just read to say you read, read to learn and grow, think as you pray…

**Colossians 3:23 “Whatever you do, do it heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men.”**

**Be prayerful about work.**

* Praying **doesn’t magically make a job more fun**, exciting, or **smaller**, but it is an expression of humility and honesty with God. **Ask for God’s help to be diligent!**
* When it comes to diligence, we will always find ourselves in need of God’s help (poor in spirit).

**Learning activity:** Choose to make one of the treats below. The lesson is, if they don’t remain diligent at the task, then they won’t have very good ice crème or butter. Excellent simple instructions for both projects are given in the youtube links below. **This might work better as an activity replacement for game time after the lesson!** Then you would have time to enjoy the fruits of their labors (if they were diligent!).

How to make **ice cream** in zip lock bag: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Zt1EuIEhvw>

* This project takes about 5 minutes of shaking

How to make **butter** in a mason jar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3a75ObmDsYM>

* This project takes about 10 minutes of shaking

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What **talents** do you think God has given you that you could develop and strengthen through diligent effort (for example: sports, music, art, academics…).

2. In your work, which enemy of distraction do you struggle with most: distraction, discouragement, or disinterest?

3. Do you normally view laziness as sin, or do you call it something else?