

# Wisdom Talks About Work: Finding God's Purpose in Our Everyday Lives

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# Wisdom Talks About WORK

Lesson One, Parent's Journal

## Why is Work So Hard?

In this first lesson, your family is going to study the very foundation of work in Genesis. You may already be very familiar with this story.

However, as you read it today, think specifically about what it is teaching us about work.

### Read Genesis 2:4-9, 2:15-22

1. What work did God give Adam to do in the garden?

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2. Did God give this work to Adam before or after sin entered the world? What does this teach us about work?

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### Read Genesis 3:1-19

3. What were some ways in which sin changed work?

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Here is what your kids need to understand today: God made Adam and Eve to work. Work is a good thing. However, when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, their sin affected their work. Work is still good, but it can also be painful, hard, and frustrating because of sin.

*Your Assignment: Kids often become overwhelmed by the difficulty of work - whether they are trying to finish math homework, clean their room, or rake leaves. They are young and these projects can seem huge to them. Take some time today to work beside your kids on a project. As you work beside your children, tell them a story about some work you had to do when you were young, or about how hard work sometimes seems to you. Your kids will appreciate knowing that work is hard for you, too.*

# Wisdom Talks About WORK

Lesson Two, Parent's Journal

## WORK: God's Path of Blessing

In today's lesson, your kids are going to be learning that work is God's path of blessing. Proverbs 10:1-5 gives us some comparisons and contrasts of the world's view of work and God's view of work. Read the passage below, one verse at a time. As you read each verse, fill in the chart below.

### Read Proverbs 10:1-5

God's Path of Blessing: Work

Man's Natural Path: Laziness

Makes his parents:	Makes his parents:
Does what is right and is delivered from:	Tries to get rich through:
God keeps him from being:	God thwarts his cravings; He is never satisfied.
He becomes:	He stays:
He acts wisely and gains respect.	He acts foolishly and gains shame and disgrace.

*Your Assignment: Take a few minutes and read back through Proverbs 10:1-5. As you read each verse, turn it into a prayer for your child. Pray that your child would choose to follow God's path of blessing. Pray that your child would live a life of hard work for God's glory, even when when all of your children's peers are choosing "easier" paths.*

# Wisdom Talks About WORK

Lesson Three, Parent's Journal

## Why Should You Work Hard?

**Read Colossians 3:18-25**

Whom are we to be serving when we work? Who will reward us for our work?

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**Read 1 Peter 4:10-11**

Who is glorified when we work hard?

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The world around us judges us by how "successful" we are in our work.

They want to know how much money we make and how many followers we have on Facebook and whether we can afford designer curtains and Disney World vacations. Even in Christian circles, we judge each other by how "successful" our "ministries" are.

But God doesn't judge us by the world's standards. Rather, God judges us by how faithful we are in the work that He has called us to do. God calls us to work joyfully and well for His honor and glory. The fact that God sees our work and cares about it gives our work great dignity and worth. Whether you are leading a successful company or washing a load of stinky socks, God sees your work. And, He will reward it at the proper time.

How do these verses change the way you might think about your work today?

*Your Assignment: Write out Colossians 3:23-24 on a three by five card or any other sheet of paper. Work on memorizing it this week with your family.*

# Wisdom Talks About WORK

Lesson Four, Parent's Journal

## Are You Complaining?

In today's lesson, we are going to back up a bit in Colossians and look at some attitudes that we need to have as we work.

As you read, look specifically for attitudes that Paul is encouraging us to have as we live and work. Write the attitudes down on the lines below.

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**Read Colossians 3:12-25**

I don't know about you, but these verses remind me of how much I need God's forgiveness and grace and the strength of the Holy Spirit working within me - because there is no way I can ever measure up to this list! But, God can change my heart. And, He can change your heart too! (Philippians 4:13)

*Your Assignment: As your kids complete Lesson Four today, they are going to be self-assessing how their attitudes are measuring up to God's standards. Talk with them about this. Remind them that no one can measure up to these standards. That is why we so desperately need a Savior, Jesus Christ, Who worked with a perfect attitude in our place. If your kids are struggling with bad attitudes about work, take a moment and pray with them. Ask God to help them (and you!) to change their attitudes so that they might glorify Him through their work.*