

DISCIPLINE AND LAZINESS

PROVERBS

LESSON 1

LESSON TEXT

Proverbs 6:6-8

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Using the Bible's example of the ant, the students will discuss God's view of laziness and discipline.
- The students will identify the consequences of laziness and the benefits of discipline in different situations.
- The students will each identify one area in which they need more discipline and create a plan to change.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:

- 4 sticky notes (2" x 2")
- pen or pencil

For the teacher:

- 3 white poster boards
- wide-lined marker
- globe or map of the world
- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- dictionary
- extra Bibles
- 4 pieces of lined paper
- 4 pens or pencils
- 4 envelopes

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student
- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher
- Page C, 1 copy for each student

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction
 Teacher Focus
 Teacher Tips
 Preclass Activity: Responsibility Poster
 Starting Up
 Welcome and Singing
 Opening Prayer
 Victories
 Good News from the Kingdom

Getting into God's Word

Story: Jana Learns the Hard Way
 Scripture Study
 Activity: Identifying the Results of Laziness and Discipline

Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Proverbs 14:23
 Weekly Challenge and Snack Time
 Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

All hard work brings a profit,
 but mere talk leads only to poverty.
 Proverbs 14:23



Preteens



FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before preparing this lesson. Read and meditate on the following proverbs: 3:13-18, 15:5, 18:2, 19:20. We have all probably given in to laziness, followed by a frenzy of activity in which we forgot important details. In the Bible, God tells us about the consequences of laziness and the blessings of being disciplined. While God wants us to lead productive and rewarding lives, many never reach their potential because they never overcome these weaknesses. How disciplined have you been in your preparation as a teacher? Are you having the impact God wants you to have?

TEACHER TIPS

In order to help your students understand the proverb used in today's lesson, you should do some research on ants. Your students should have some ideas about this, but you should not assume that they all know a great deal about the subject. Search for information on how ants use teamwork, how they gather and store food, and how they work. Your insights will help your class more readily understand the concepts of discipline and laziness.

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

RESPONSIBILITY POSTER

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- 4 sticky notes (2" x 2")
- pen or pencil

For the teacher:

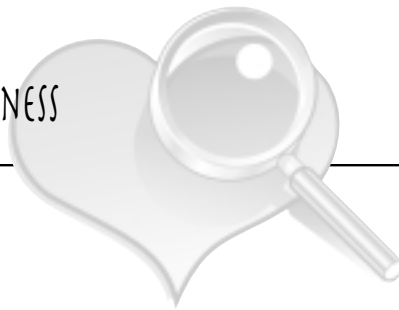
- 1 white poster board
- wide-lined magic marker

PREPARATION

Before class, divide the poster board into four columns. Write one of the following headings as a title in each column: SCHOOL, SPORTS, HOME, CHURCH.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. As the students arrive, give each a pen or pencil and four sticky notes. Direct their attention to the poster board at the front of the class.
2. Have each student think of a responsibility they might have in each category. For example, a responsibility to a sports team might be fair play, or a responsibility at school would be to turn in excellent work. The students should write one responsibility for each category on a separate sticky note, and add their notes to the appropriate columns on the poster board.



STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER

Who would like to say a prayer to start today's time together? Let a few students lead the prayer. Encourage the students to mention missing students, special church activities, illnesses, people they want to share Jesus with and to be especially thankful for the chance to be together.

VICTORIES

Take the time to have the students share about the challenges they were given at the end of last week's class. *Did everyone complete their challenge? How did it go? What fears did you face as you met the challenge to put the lesson into practice? How did everyone do with having consistent quiet times? Who would like to share something they learned?*

Praise and encourage all the students' efforts, especially noting any area of significant growth. Offer help and suggestions so they can have even more victories in the coming week.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE KINGDOM

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world

INSTRUCTIONS

Now let's take a few minutes to share "Good News from the Kingdom." Be excited as you read about what is happening around the world. Have a globe or map ready, pointing out the location as you share.





STORY

JANA LEARNS THE HARD WAY

In this story, the students will see how Jana's laziness and lack of discipline have consequences in her life and in the lives of her friends.

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- 1 white poster board
- dictionary
- wide-lined marker
- extra Bibles

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute copies of Reproducible Page A (the story) to the students.
2. Read the story to the students.
3. Ask the students the following questions:
 - *Today we are going to talk about discipline and laziness. How do you think Jana feels about not being able to participate in the party? (She feels sad because she was excited to be a part of it. / She is mad at herself for forgetting the cookies.)*
 - *How do you think her friends will feel when they find out she forgot the cookies? (They will probably be disappointed because they were looking forward to her addition to the party. / They might lose respect for Jana because she did not do something everyone else took the time to do.)*
 - *What could Jana have done to make sure she remembered the cookies? (She could have only read for a little bit the night before so she was not so tired the next morning. / She could have taken a shorter shower so she did not have to rush out the door.)*
 - *Who can define "discipline"? After some ideas are generated, look up the word in a dictionary. Do the same for "laziness."*

4. On a large poster board write the word "Discipline" on one side and "Laziness" on the other.
5. Write the definitions from the dictionary under the appropriate heading.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

What do you know about ants? (Allow the students time to share some ideas. Share the information you have learned from your own reading.) Let's see in the Bible what God thinks about ants. Select a student to read Proverbs 6:6-8 as the other students follow along in their own Bibles.

What word in verse 6 means lazy and undisciplined? (sluggard) Write this word on the poster board under the "laziness" heading.

Briefly describe the teamwork of ants, and ask the following questions:

- *When are the times that you need to work as part of a team? (housework, sports, etc.)*
- *What if the ants rebelled and did not work as a team? (they would be less productive / there would be no food in winter / they would die)*
- *What does God think of the work that ants do? (It is a great example for us.)*
- *What are some things you have to work at? Do you always feel like working hard?*
- *What would you rather do at these times? What would eventually happen if you did not work at these things in your life?*
- Explain to the class that laziness and discipline must be mastered to be a productive and happy disciple.



ACTIVITY

IDENTIFYING THE RESULTS OF LAZINESS AND DISCIPLINE

MATERIALS USED:

For the teacher:

- 4 pieces of lined paper
- 4 pens or pencils
- 4 envelopes

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher

PREPARATION

1. Cut your copy of Reproducible Page B into four sections.
2. Place each scenario in a separate envelope and seal the envelopes.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Divide the class into four groups. Have each group select one of the envelopes you prepared prior to class, and give each group a piece of paper and a pen or pencil.
2. Tell the groups that in each of the envelopes they are given a situation that is handled in either a lazy manner or a disciplined manner. Each group is to read their situation, and discuss: (a) whether the situation showed laziness or discipline and (b) what the results of their actions might be.
3. Each group will have five minutes to discuss the their situation and brainstorm as many ideas as they can.
4. Each group should appoint a spokesperson to share the situation and ideas of the group with the rest of the class.





SCRIPTURE MEMORY

All hard work brings a profit,
but mere talk leads only to poverty.

Proverbs 14:23

MATERIALS

For the teacher:

- 1 white poster board
- wide-lined marker

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

PREPARATION

Write out the memory verse (Proverbs 14:23) in large letters on the poster board.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Have the students look at the poster board and say the memory verse together aloud several times.
2. Give each student a copy of Reproducible Page C (memory verse). Have them choose a partner to help them practice the scripture throughout the week.
3. Discuss the meaning of the verse. Have several students share about how it applies to their lives.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat it while you explain to them the challenge for the week. Have them think about an area in each of their lives in which they need to be more disciplined.

Ask the students if they have ever made a goal to change that undisciplined area of their life? If so, why didn't they achieve their goal? Explain your convictions about how others in the church and members of their families can help them achieve their goals. It takes the advice, support and encouragement of many people to achieve changes that last.

The challenge for this week is for each student to talk to his or her family (i.e., at a family devotional or individually throughout the week) about the one area that they want to work on changing this week, and to ask for help in meeting this goal. The students should work with their parents to make a specific plan as to how they will become more disciplined and not lazy in this area.

Encourage the students to be honest with themselves and to encourage the others in the class during the week.

CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer. Ask God to help the students share with others what they are learning in class.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Talk to your family about one way you want to be more disciplined and not lazy this week. Ask them to help you change.

DISCIPLINE AND LAZINESS

LESSON TEXT

Proverbs 6:6-8

LESSON OBJECTIVES

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- The student will identify the consequences of laziness and the benefits of discipline in different situations.
- The students will each identify one area in which they need more discipline, and create a plan to change.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:

- pen or pencil
- 44 beads for necklace
- 1 plastic sandwich bag
- 1 leather string or piece of hemp, 24" long
- 1 sheet of paper

For the teacher:

- extra Bibles
- 13 index cards (3" x 5")

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

- Faithful Instruction
 - Teacher Focus
 - Teacher Tips
- Preclass Activity: "Discipline and Laziness" Word Search
- Starting Up
 - Welcome and Singing
 - Opening Prayer
 - Great News Sharing

Getting into God's Word

- Scripture Study
- Activity: Beaded Necklace Craft

Getting It to Others

- Scripture Memory: Proverbs 14:23
- Weekly Challenge and Snack Time
- Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

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FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

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TEACHER TIPS

In order to help your students understand the proverb used in today's lesson, you should do some research on ants. Your students should have some ideas about this, but you should not assume that they all know a great deal about the subject. Search for information on how ants use teamwork, how they gather and store food, and how they work. Your insights will help your class more readily understand the concepts of discipline and laziness.

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

"DISCIPLINE AND LAZINESS" WORD SEARCH

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- pen or pencil
- 44 beads for necklace
- 1 plastic sandwich bag

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute one copy of the worksheet (Reproducible Page D) and a pen or pencil to each of the students as they arrive.
2. The students will complete the word search using the words found in the scriptures listed. They can know that there are 22 words. After they have worked individually on this, bring them together to give each student two beads for every word they circled correctly. Provide a plastic sandwich bag for each student in which to hold his or her beads. Let the students know that they will use the beads later in the class.
3. See page 11 for key to word search.



STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER

- Open with one of the students praying for one to two minutes about having a plan for the areas of their lives in which they want to become more disciplined.
- Have one student recite the memory verse for this lesson: Proverbs 14:23.
- Have a student briefly review the previous lesson (Core Lesson).

GREAT NEWS SHARING

Allow several minutes for the students to share great news about their lives. This could be about a family member who became a disciple, someone healed from an illness, someone studying the Bible, great grades, etc. Remind the students to be brief so as many as possible can share.





SCRIPTURE STUDY

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- extra Bibles

Ask the students to take out their Bibles and turn to Proverbs 6:6-8. Select a volunteer to read the passage.

Ask the students to share what they learned in the last class. Get as many students as possible to participate and share aspects that were significant to them. You should add any information that the students omit, including any information you gathered in your research on ants.

ACTIVITY

BEADED NECKLACE CRAFT

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- 1 leather string or piece of hemp, 24" long
- pen or pencil
- sheet of paper

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Give each student a leather string or piece of hemp. The students should use the beads they were given during the preclass activity to string a necklace. (The students may use as many or as few beads in their necklace as they desire. The boys may want to use less, or make a wristband, rather than a necklace.)
2. Tell the students that the necklace (or wristband) should serve as a reminder to them to not be lazy or undisciplined. Explain that when we are disciplined we listen better and can become wiser.
3. Have the students talk about ways that laziness causes problems. Discuss the ways that being disciplined results in blessings.
4. Have each student write down five ways they have been lazy in the past week, and how they will work to overcome these areas of laziness. Talk about everyday ways that laziness manifests itself. (i.e., leaving dishes on the table or around the house instead of taking them to the sink or dishwasher yourself, not being the first to move to answer the phone when it rings, etc.) Help the students to see that great discipline begins in the small things.





R	U	B	C	X	S	R	V	W	N	O	Q	E	B	B	D	N	E	F	H	J	L
H	B	N	S	Y	M	U	I	E	T	W	P	R	O	F	I	T	A	B	L	E	C
F	N	I	D	G	W	B	O	F	Q	S	C	U	Y	S	Z	O	J	L	I	E	H
D	M	J	R	E	K	I	N	I	S	D	U	S	W	R	I	C	H	E	S	Q	F
S	Y	A	P	B	R	E	F	L	C	E	G	A	B	W	Y	D	E	S	S	B	O
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E	P	S	T	J	G	V	H	W	R	B	I	U	Y	F	R	I	E	N	D	N	V
G	S	I	R	M	X	P	Q	Y	S	K	G	N	I	B	E	C	I	V	D	A	P
D	G	I	O	E	W	G	O	L	D	X	U	T	G	L	A	D	F	I	C	L	N

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

All hard work brings a profit,
but mere talk leads only to poverty.

Proverbs 14:23

Review the scripture memory verse that was given during the previous lesson. Practice the verse together with the class, encouraging the students to have the verse completely memorized by the next class.

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- pen or pencil

For the teacher:

- 13 index cards (3" x 5")

PREPARATION

Write one of each of the following scrambled words from Proverbs 14:23 onto an index card.

LAL	RAHD	KRWO
IRBGNS	A	TRPIFO
UTB	EERM	ATKL
LDSEA	NLOY	OT
VOYPTER		

INSTRUCTIONS

If time allows, the students should each get one or more cards, look at them, and write the correct word on each of them. Once all the cards have been corrected, have the students lay them out on a table in the correct order and practice saying the verse together.

NOTE: If you have a large class, you might want to divide your students into groups and prepare a set of cards for each group.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat it while you review with them the challenge for the week. Each student was asked to talk to his or her family (i.e., at a family devotional or individually throughout the week) about the one area that they want to work on changing this week, and to ask for help in meeting this goal. Then they were to work with their parents to make a specific plan as to how they would become more disciplined and not lazy in this area.

Have the students share how they are doing with the challenge, and determine if any students have not begun to work at their goal. Encourage all the students, and provide suggestions to help those who may be uncertain or fearful about the challenge.

CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer. Pray for new visitors in the class.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Talk to your family about one way you want to be more disciplined and not lazy this week. Ask them to help you change.

JANA LEARNS THE HARD WAY

The day had finally arrived for the end of the year party at school. Jana laid in bed extra long that morning thinking about how much fun it would be to wear the new outfit her mother had bought for her yesterday. The next time she looked at the clock, a whole thirty minutes had gone by. Jana jumped up and ran to the shower. She needed it this morning to help her wake up. She had stayed up reading too late last night. She knew she would be tired, but the book was so good and hard to put down!

After a nice, long shower she realized she had only ten minutes to get dressed and to make it to school! As she ran out the door in her new outfit, she forgot to take the cookies she had made for the party. She had placed them by the door so that she wouldn't forget to take them with her.

At school she ran to her class anticipating the attention she would receive. The teacher smiled and said, "Jana, you look so nice today." Turning to the class, the teacher said, "I hope you all remembered to bring something for our party. In order to have enough food, we needed everyone to bring what they were assigned."

Jana sank slowly into her seat.



IDENTIFYING THE RESULTS OF LAZINESS AND DISCIPLINE

Situation #1:

You have been asked to babysit for the children of a family that is new to the neighborhood.

You go over to the house the day before to meet the children, and to talk with the parents about the rules and important information you should know.

The next night, you arrive early to receive any last-minute instructions. You follow all the rules you have been given; you give the children their snack, and you help them get ready for bed. They go to bed exactly on time.

Later, you straighten up the house and do your homework. You do not make phone calls or have friends over.

Questions:

1. Did you behave in a lazy or disciplined manner?
2. What might be the results of your actions?

Situation #3:

Your soccer team has had an incredible season. The team has won all its games, and has been asked to play in a tournament in another state.

The team arrives at the tournament and practices every day. After practice, they see the sights, eat and go to movies. Everyone is having a great time.

On the night before the big game, the coach sets a curfew for 9 p.m. for the entire team to be in bed. Your teammates have brought CDs, videos and snacks for a party. After bedcheck, the curfew is forgotten, and the team stays up until midnight. You join in with them.

Questions:

1. Did you behave in a lazy or disciplined manner?
2. What might be the results of your actions?

Situation #2:

You volunteered in May to write the skit that your class will present at Preteen Camp in August.

You are enjoying your summer spending time with friends, swimming and relaxing. When your leader asks about the skit, you say that it is coming along, and it is going to be a great surprise.

Suddenly, you realize that it is August 15, two weeks before Preteen Camp. You have written nothing except the title of the skit, and your family is leaving tomorrow for a week's vacation.

You think about calling your leader, but decide it is only a five-minute skit, and you can write it while you travel. The class can begin practicing when you return.

Questions:

1. Did you behave in a lazy or disciplined manner?
2. What might be the results of your actions?

Situation #4:

You have been chosen to make the arrangements for a Preteen/Seniors Holiday Party at a local nursing home. Your leader has confirmed the date and time, and has left the rest of the details to you.

You assign people to bring food, make decorations, plan crafts, and set up games and songs. You call each week to remind everyone of their responsibilities, and you keep a list of which things have been completed.

The week before the party, you ask everyone to bring all the items in for the party, and you finalize the order of events for the day. Finally, you set the time for everyone to meet at the nursing home.

Questions:

1. Did you behave in a lazy or disciplined manner?
2. What might be the results of your actions?

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

All hard work brings a profit,
but mere talk leads only to poverty.

PROVERBS 14:23

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Talk to your family about one way you want to be more disciplined and not lazy this week. Ask them to help you change.

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CorSup/CentrNam/1 copy for each student

DISCIPLINE AND LAZINESS WORD SEARCH

R	U	B	C	X	S	R	V	W	N	O	Q	E	B	B	D	N	E	F	H	J	L
H	B	N	S	Y	M	U	I	E	T	W	P	R	O	F	I	T	A	B	L	E	C
F	N	I	D	G	W	B	O	F	Q	S	C	U	Y	S	Z	O	J	L	I	E	H
D	M	J	R	E	K	I	N	I	S	D	U	S	W	R	I	C	H	E	S	Q	F
S	Y	A	P	B	R	E	F	L	C	E	G	A	B	W	Y	D	E	S	S	B	O
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E	P	S	T	J	G	V	H	W	R	B	I	U	Y	F	R	I	E	N	D	N	V
G	S	I	R	M	X	P	Q	Y	S	K	G	N	I	B	E	C	I	V	D	A	P
D	G	I	O	E	W	G	O	L	D	X	U	T	G	L	A	D	F	I	C	L	N

LIFE
RUBIES
ADVICE
DELIGHTS
WISDOM

PROFITABLE
SILVER
GOLD
RICHES
PRECIOUS
FOOL

CORRECTION
WORK
OPINIONS
UNDERSTANDING
PLEASURE
POVERTY

WISE
HEEDS
HONOR
BLESSED
TALK