

Crossword Puzzle

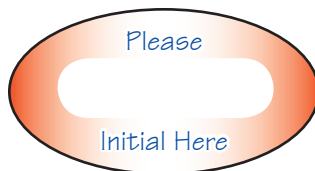


Across

Down

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2. ...they do not work just enough to ___ themselves for each day... | 1. ...build up a diligent _____. |
| 3. ...that he may have something to ___ with him who has need. | 2. ...seven years of ___ that followed. |
| 6. ...in diligence there is _____ | 4. ...puts laziness together with _____ |
| 9. ...seven years of _____ in Egypt. | 5. ...so that they can have something to eat when the cold ___ comes. |
| 11. ...the character of his ___ and work. | 7. ...going, _____ and working. |
| 12. When a ___ does a task with his whole heart and interest in it... | 8. Laziness brings people to _____ |
| 15. ...going, moving and _____. | 10. A lazy person will find many _____ |
| 16. A ___ person just wants to sleep. | 13. ...most useful to Him in His _____. |
| 19. ...seven years of plenty in _____. | 14. Rather they work ___ enough to get extra food. |
| 20. Laziness is condemned in the _____. | 17. Both the ___ and the bee are hard workers. |
| | 18. Both the and and the _____ |

Parent's Initials:



Diligent - Not Slothful

I. Overview.

All those who love the Lord should exercise themselves to build up a diligent character. Diligence is the most important characteristic of a servant of the Lord. Because laziness issues from self-love and self-pity, we should strongly stand against any laziness in our character or work. Laziness robs our time and leads us to poverty and begging (Prov. 20:4)

We should learn from the bees and the ants in God's creation



The Bible uses bees as a good example of diligence. They work continually to provide the hive with food for winter.

who work diligently each day and even store up something for tomorrow. God has established a principle that we should all work for the things that we need.

When we are diligent God will bless us. We can even become persons that are able to give something to others who are in need. Diligence should be the characteristic that describes our way of life and work.

II. Memory Verse.

“And we sent with them our brother, whom we have proved to be diligent in many things many times, yet now much more diligent because of the great confidence he has toward you.”

(2 Cor. 8:22)

III. Lesson.

Diligence is the Opposite of Laziness

The most important characteristic of a servant of the Lord is diligence. Diligence is the word that describes the character of his service and work. Diligence includes earnestness, thoroughness, perseverance and carefulness. When a person does a task with his whole heart and interest in it, he will do it with diligence.

Laziness is the opposite of diligence. Laziness is condemned in the Bible. It results from our self-love. The Bible puts laziness together sleep, because that is all a lazy person wants to do.

Laziness Brings People to Poverty

A lazy person will find many reasons not to work. “The sluggard will not plow because of winter; therefore he will beg in the harvest and have nothing” (Prov 20:4). Because of his desire to sleep instead of work, the lazy person becomes poor. This is often the reason that some people steal things. The Apostle Paul said “He who steals should steal no more, but rather should labor, working with his own hands in that which is respectable, that he may have something to share with him who has need (Eph. 4:28).



Examples of Diligence

Two examples of diligence that we can see in the insect kingdom are the ant and the bee. Both the ant and the bee are hard workers. They are always going, moving and working. They do not just work enough to feed themselves for each

Like the bees, ants also work diligently to prepare for the future.

day. Rather they work hard enough to get extra food. They carefully store the extra food in their homes so that they can have something to eat when the cold winter comes. The Bible tells the lazy person to go learn from the diligent ant.

The Bible tells us that in diligence there is profit and that the diligent person will prosper. In Luke 15, the woman who lost her silver coin searched for it diligently until she found it. Also, Jacob’s son Joseph was diligent to store up grain in the seven years of plenty in Egypt. Then in the seven years of famine that followed, there was food for all the people. God is looking for people who will be diligent because they will be most useful to Him in His economy.

--- Questions for Discussion ---

1. What things are included in diligence?

2. What is the most important characteristic of a servant of the Lord?

3. What is the opposite of diligence?

4. What insects are used to illustrate diligence?

