

City LG—January 17th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Ants Marching (Ant and Sluggard) • *Proverbs 6:6-8*

Today's Bottom Line: Work hard.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large.* Luke 16:10a (NIV)

WORSHIP: Something Good and Rising Up

"Hi, everyone! (*Hold up the Bible.*) For today's Rule for Life, we're looking at a wise saying from a man who lived many, many years ago: King Solomon. Solomon was young when he became the ruler of God's people after his father, David.

"One night, God spoke to Solomon in a dream and told him he could ask for anything. Solomon asked for wisdom! God gave him the wisdom he asked for, and Solomon became known as one of the wisest people who ever lived. Solomon shared many wise sayings that were collected in the book of Proverbs, which is part of our Bible today." (*Hold up the Bible.*)

"One of Solomon's proverbs explained why it's important for us to work hard. Listen to this.

Open the Bible to Proverbs 6:6-8 (NIV) and read.

"You people who don't want to work, think about the ant! Consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander. It has no leader or ruler. But it stores up its food in summer. It gathers its food at harvest time.

"Okay. Solomon said that if we want a good example of what it looks like to give our best effort, we should take a look at the ant.

SLIDE: Image #1 (Ant carrying something much larger than itself)

"Look at that picture! Can you imagine how hard that ant is working to carry something so much larger than itself? Ants are very hardworking creatures. The ant decides on its own to work hard. It stores up its food in summer so it has enough food for the winter. The ant's hard work pays off when it can survive the winter because of all the food it saved up during the rest of the year.

SLIDE: Image #2 (Ant eating)

"Look at that. Yum!

"Solomon was telling people who don't want to work that they could learn a lot from an ant. Another word for someone who doesn't want to work is 'sluggard'. That's the word that we find in some versions of the Bible—like this: *Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!* (Proverbs, 6:6, NIV)

"I don't know about you, but when I hear the word sluggard, I think about a slug—just being lazy and not really doing much.

SLIDE: Image #3 (Slug)

"Slugs are cool animals. But if I think about an animal that works hard, it's not the first thing that would come to mind."

"I've got a fun game we can play to help us understand Solomon's words a little better. I'll tell you a situation and describe how someone might respond. Then you can shout-out if you think the action I described is an example of Ant Life—working hard—or Slug Life—being lazy.

"For example . . .

SLIDE: Image #4a (Dirty sock)

“Your mom says you need to clean your room. So, you get to work picking up your toys and dirty clothes. You work hard and don’t stop until it’s all done. Is that Ant Life or Slug Life? (Pause for response.)

“That’s right!

SLIDE: Image #4b (Ant carrying dirty sock)

“Working hard and cleaning your room is definitely Ant Life.

“Up next . . .

SLIDE: Image #5a (Spelling worksheet)

“Your teacher tells you there’s a spelling test on Friday, and you need to study. You decide that you don’t really need to study, and you watch TV instead. Is that Ant Life or Slug Life? (Pause for response.)

“Right.

SLIDE: Image #5b (Slug watching TV)

“Staring at a screen when you’re supposed to study is definitely Slug Life.

“Okay. Next example . . .

SLIDE: Image #6a (Soccer ball)

“You really want to play soccer this year, but you’ve never played before. The coach says you can play, but you’ll need to work extra-hard to catch up to the other players. You decide to spend 30 minutes every day practicing in the backyard. Is that Ant Life or Slug Life? (Pause for response.)

“You got it!

SLIDE: Image #6b (Ant kicking soccer ball)

“Working hard to learn to play soccer is definitely an Ant Life kind of move.

“Here’s the last one . . .

SLIDE: Image #7a (Garage sale)

“Your friend’s family is having a garage sale to raise money to help others. You’ve been asked to show up and help organize all the items for the sale. You show up to help, but you keep finding places to hide so you don’t have to actually do any work. Is that Ant Life or Slug Life? (Pause for response.)

“That’s true.

SLIDE: Image #7b (Slug in a closet, peeking out)

“Hiding in a closet so you don’t have to help is definitely Slug Life.

“I think you’re getting the hang of this! In situations we experience every day, we have the opportunity to choose Ant Life or Slug Life.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

“The truth is, God has given us everything we need to work hard. He’s given us strong bodies . . . lots of energy . . . and smart, creative minds. We are all made in His image! That means we can give our very best effort and show that we can be trusted with what others expect of us.

“Like Jesus once said . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 12:48 (NIV) and read.

“Much will be required of everyone who has been given much. Even more will be asked of the person who is supposed to take care of much.

“If we want to take care of what we’ve been given, what does that sound like: Ant Life or Slug Life? (Pause for response.)

“Exactly. That’s what this week’s Episode is all about. Let’s take a look!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 10:00)

“You can do your best in whatever you’re doing. You can work hard. Your hard work is one way you can show love to God—and to the people He made.

“Here’s a Rule for Life that we can all choose to follow, every day.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Work hard.

“Let’s give our best effort. Let’s show others that we can be responsible. Let’s **[Bottom Line]** work hard so we can make a difference for other people. Will you pray with me?”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY: “Dear God, please help us choose to work hard, no matter what. Sometimes it’s tempting for us to take a shortcut or avoid the job altogether. Sometimes we think, ‘Someone else will do it.’ But we know that You want us to step up and give our best effort. Help us do our very best to show love to You and to everyone we meet. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Dismiss to All Together Activities