

# ALLEY SG- January 20-21, 2024

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

**Today's Key Question:** When have you had to 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 (NirV)*

## 1. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** White board, dry-erase marker, dry eraser, "Ant Farm Artist & Narrator" Cards (in a baggie)

### What You Do:

- Ask kids to raise their hands if anyone has ever had pet ants that live in an ant farm.
  - If anyone raises their hand, choose that kid to be the artist for this activity.
  - If no one raises their hand, choose a kid to be the artist.
- Ask the artist to hold the white board.
- Give the artist the marker and eraser.
- Set out the Ant Farm Artist cards in one pile.
- Set out the narrator cards in a separate pile.
- Choose another kid to be your narrator.
- Draw the first card from the artist pile, then draw one from the narrator pile.
- Show the artist their card and the narrator their card.
- Instruct the kids to follow the directions they were given on their cards—the artist to draw and the narrator to read out loud.
- Give them both their second cards when the artist has finished drawing.
- Continue until all five cards have been read and drawn.
- Say: "It took the teamwork effort of the artist and the narrator to use their individual skills for the purpose of retelling this story from the Bible. God gives us all different gifts that we can use in order to work hard. And like the ant, we shouldn't just wait around for others to tell us what to do. We should take the initiative to do what's expected of us, without being asked."
- Ask:
  - How can you use your skills and talents to work hard at something?
  - What are some ways you can help yourself remember to do things without being asked?
  - How do you like to rest?

## 2. Discussion Questions

- When have you had to work hard?
- When can it be challenging to work hard?
- Is there a certain kind of work you enjoy doing?
- How do you react when no one notices your hard work?
- How does our hard work show love to God and others?

## 3. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** "Work Hard Words" Page (1 per kid), "Work Hard Words Answer Key"(1 per group), pens, Bibles

### What You Do:

- Invite kids to choose a partner.
- Instruct the partners to sit together.
- Give each pair of kids a Bible.

- Give each kid a copy of the “Work Hard Words” Page and a pen.
- Instruct the kids to work together to look up the Bible verse references to fill in the answers to the crossword puzzle.
- After everyone has completed their crossword, go over the answers together as a group.
- Refer to the “Work Hard Words Answer Key” Page as needed.
- Ask:
  - What do you think it means in Colossians 3:23 when the verse says we should work with all our heart, like we’re working for God?
  - Did any of these verses stand out to you? If so, why?
  - How can God’s Word help us work hard?
- Say: “We have the Bible to help us learn who God is and help guide us through life. When we know what God says, we can trust those words to help us when we’re struggling with something or when we’re not sure how to handle a situation.”
- Encourage kids to take the crossword home and choose a verse to focus on this week.

#### 4. Pet Project Prayers

##### What You Need:

“Pet Project Prayers: 3” Activity Page (1 per kid), pens

##### What You Do:

- Give each kid a copy of the “Pet Project Prayers: 3” Activity Page and a pen.
- Encourage kids to use the spaces provided to list prayers about specific jobs or responsibilities they’re expected to do.
- Examples of prayers might include:
  - Remember to clean my room without being asked.
  - Avoid letting video games distract me from doing my homework.
  - Finish my chores even when I don’t want to.
- Instruct the kids to write prayers that are focused on asking God to help them work hard. (These should be brief reminders that will help guide them when they pray at home.)
- Encourage kids to take their page home and place it somewhere they will see it.
- Challenge them to set time aside in the week ahead to pray each day.
- Say: “Praying doesn’t have to be complicated or take a long time. Just taking a little time talking to God each day is a great way to spend time with God and to stay focused on how we can work hard.”

#### 4. Pray

- “Dear God, thank You for the way You made us and the ability You’ve given us to **[Bottom Line] work hard**. As we go through our week, we know it will be easy to slack off and sink back into choosing not to give our best in everything we do. Remind us to **[Bottom Line] work hard** so we can love those around us and honor You. Amen.”

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** Ask kids to tell their parent how they plan to work hard this week!