

Laziness/Diligence Day 1



Precious Promises

Devotional Guide



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#131) — KJV

Proverbs 20:11 "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right."

♥ Apply the Promise!

People notice the way you do your chores and tasks! When you work hard and do your best without complaining, you show everyone that you love God. Even small jobs are very important!

📖 Bible Story (John 6)

Large crowds often followed Jesus to hear Him teach about God's kingdom. One afternoon, more than five thousand people followed Him far out into the wilderness. They listened all day long, and as the sun began to set, the people grew tired and hungry. Because they were far away from any towns, there was no easy way to buy food for such a large crowd.

The disciples were worried and wanted to send the people away. But Jesus already had a plan. Andrew looked around the large group and spotted a young boy carrying a small lunch. Someone had been very diligent that morning! Whether it was the boy who planned ahead, or his mother who lovingly prepared the basket before he left the house, that careful work mattered. He had five barley loaves and two small fish.

It was not much for thousands of hungry people, but it was ready to use. The boy could have kept his food for himself. Instead, he made the right choice and willingly offered his entire lunch to Jesus. Jesus gladly accepted the gift and told the crowd to sit down on the grass.

Jesus took the loaves and fish, gave thanks to God, and broke the bread. A miracle happened! The food kept multiplying until every single person had enough to eat, with twelve baskets of leftovers.

This story reminds us that God can use what is ready and willingly placed in His hands. When we are faithful in small things, prepared to help, and willing to share, Jesus can use our efforts to bless many people.

☀ True Story

In the summer of 2016, an eight-year-old boy named Jalen Bailey lived with his single mother in an apartment in California. Jalen noticed that his mother was working very hard just to pay their monthly rent, and he wanted to help her save enough money to buy a house.

Instead of spending his afternoons playing or waiting for someone else to solve the problem, Jalen decided to take action. He enjoyed baking, so he started his own small business out of their apartment kitchen called "Jalen's Bakery." He did not wait until he was an adult to start working. He chose to be diligent right away.

Every day after school, Jalen got straight to work. He spent hours measuring flour, mixing sugar, and baking peanut butter cookies from scratch. He organized his sales, packed up the cookies, and sold them to people in his neighborhood. He saved his earnings and kept his focus steadily on his goal of helping his mother.

People quickly noticed Jalen's hard work and dedication. Word about his bakery spread, and he was soon invited to share his story on national television programs. Jalen used his own hands and his afternoon time to make a difference for his family. He showed everyone that a child can choose to work hard and do a job well.

Jalen's story reminds us that we do not have to wait until we are grown to be diligent, and our hard work can be a huge blessing to our families.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What did the young boy in the Bible story bring with him to hear Jesus teach?
- What did Jalen bake from scratch to help his mother?
- What is a chore at your house that you sometimes complain about, and how can you do it with a diligent heart instead?

📖 Activity:

Choose one simple chore to do in secret today, like making someone else's bed or putting away their shoes.

Do it perfectly and diligently without telling anyone! Later, talk about how God sees our pure, hard work even when no one else notices.

Laziness/Diligence Day 2



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Devotional Guide



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#132) — KJV

Luke 16:10 "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."

♥ Apply the Promise!

When you are trusted with a very small job, God watches to see if you will do your best. If you work hard on small things, God knows He can trust you with big things!

📖 Bible Story (1 Samuel 17)

Before David became the king of Israel, he was a young shepherd with an ordinary job. While his older brothers went off to the army, David stayed in the hills and cared for his father's sheep.

Watching sheep may not have seemed important to everyone. David could have been lazy. He could have complained, fallen asleep, or let the sheep wander away. But David chose to be diligent. He faithfully guided the flock to grass and water, watched for danger, and cared for the sheep day after day.

David did not only work when someone was watching. Out in the quiet fields, where no one else could see him, he still did his job well. When a lion and a bear came to take lambs from the flock, David did not run away. With God's help, he fought the wild animals and rescued the sheep.

Those quiet shepherd days were preparing David for something greater. He learned courage, patience, faithfulness, and trust in God while doing a simple job that many people might have overlooked.

God saw David's faithful heart in the fields. Later, when the time was right, God called David from caring for sheep and chose him to lead His people.

David's story reminds us that small jobs matter to God. When we are faithful, hardworking, and careful with the duties we have now, God can use them to prepare us for greater responsibilities later.

☀ True Story

Booker T. Washington was born into slavery and grew up very poor. After he gained his freedom, he had a strong desire to learn. When he was a teenager, he heard about a school called Hampton Institute. It was hundreds of miles away, but Booker was determined to go.

He traveled for many days, walking much of the way and sometimes sleeping outdoors. When he finally reached the school, he was tired, hungry, and covered with dust from the road. He did not look like a neat, wealthy student.

The head teacher was not sure whether to admit him. Instead of giving him a regular school test, she gave him a different kind of test. She pointed to a room and told him it needed sweeping.

Booker did not complain about being handed a broom. He understood that this might be his chance. He swept the room carefully, not once, but several times. Then he dusted the furniture again and again, making sure the work was done as well as he could do it.

When the teacher came back, she checked the room with a clean handkerchief. She could not find dust. Booker had shown diligence, humility, and care in a small job. Because of that, she admitted him to the school. He later became a respected teacher and leader.

Booker's story reminds us that small duties can reveal the kind of heart we have. When we do even simple work carefully and faithfully, God can use it to open doors we never expected.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What was David's ordinary, lonely job while his older brothers were away in the king's army?
- What "test" did the head teacher give Booker when he arrived looking tired and dirty?
- When you are given a small job like taking out the trash, how can you show diligence instead of laziness?

🧼 Activity:

Give the children an old toothbrush and a small cup of soapy water. Assign them a tiny, usually ignored spot in the house or classroom (like the grout around one tile, the rim of a sink, or the tracks of a sliding window). Give them three minutes to scrub it perfectly clean. Explain that true diligence means doing a great job on the small, hidden details, not just the big, obvious things that everyone sees.

Laziness/Diligence

Day 3



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#133) — KJV

1 Corinthians 14:40 "Let all things be done decently and in order."

❤️ Apply the Promise!

God is not messy or lazy. He loves when things are done carefully and in order! When you take your time to do a good job and clean up, you are acting just like Him!

📖 Bible Story (Genesis 1-2)

Before the world began, there was nothing but dark, empty space. The earth was completely without form, like a giant, messy shadow. But God is not lazy, and He does not create chaotic messes. When He decided to build the universe, He did not just throw everything together all at once in a careless hurry. Instead, God worked with a clear purpose, incredible diligence, and perfect order.

On the very first day, God commanded the bright light to shine, separating it carefully from the darkness. He took His time, working step by step to prepare the earth. On the second day, He separated the beautiful blue sky from the deep waters below. Then, He gathered the dry land together and commanded green plants, tall trees, and delicious fruit to grow. God knew that animals and people would need a safe, beautiful place to live, so He diligently prepared their home before He ever moved them inside.

Once the habitats were perfectly ready, God filled them with life. On the fifth and sixth days, He filled the oceans with swimming fish, the skies with flying birds, and the dry land with galloping animals. Finally, He created Adam and Eve. Every single detail, from the stripes on a zebra to the tiny wings of a buzzing bee, was designed flawlessly. At the end of His work, God looked at everything He had carefully made and said it was "very good."

God's wonderful creation reminds us that when we take our time, work diligently, and do things decently and in order, the result is something truly beautiful.

🌟 True Story

More than two hundred years ago, a man named Noah Webster lived in America. At that time, people spelled words however they wanted. One person might spell the word "color" with five letters, and another might spell it with seven. Reading a book or a letter could be a very confusing, messy experience. Noah was a teacher, and he knew that things work much better when they are done decently and in a careful order.

Noah decided to create the first American dictionary to help everyone learn how to spell and speak the same way. But this was not a quick, easy job. Noah could not just look up words on a computer. He had to learn twenty-six different languages to understand where words came from. He traveled across the ocean to find old books and carefully wrote down the exact definitions for thousands of words by hand using a simple quill pen.

This project took an incredible amount of diligence. Noah worked quietly and patiently at his wooden desk for over twenty-six years. Some days his hand cramped from writing so much, but he refused to quit or do a sloppy job.

Finally, when he was seventy years old, he finished his dictionary. It had seventy thousand perfectly organized words. Because Noah chose to be diligent, children all across America were finally able to learn how to read and write clearly.

Noah Webster's story reminds us that orderly, patient, and diligent work can make a lasting difference in the world.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- In the Bible story, what did God create on the very first day to start bringing order to the world?
- How many years did Noah patiently work at his wooden desk to finish his massive project?
- Why is it important to do your schoolwork or chores "decently and in order" instead of rushing?

📖 Activity:

Take a stack of mixed-up alphabet cards or a pile of scattered books and dump them into a messy pile on the floor. Set a timer and see how fast your child can diligently organize them into perfect alphabetical order! Talk about how much easier it is to find exactly what we need when things are done decently and in order, just like Noah Webster's famous dictionary.

Laziness/Diligence Day 4



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🎧 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#134) — KJV

Colossians 3:23–24 "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

📖 Apply the Promise!

When you do your chores or schoolwork, pretend you are doing them directly for Jesus! When you work hard with a very happy heart, God sees it and promises to give you a special reward.

📖 Bible Story (Genesis 39)

Joseph was a young man when he was taken far away from home and sold as a slave in Egypt. He had not chosen this hard place. His older brothers had betrayed him, and now he had to work in the house of an Egyptian officer named Potiphar.

Joseph could have become bitter and lazy. He could have complained, worked only when someone was watching, or done the smallest amount possible. But Joseph loved God. Even in a place he did not want to be, he chose to do his work faithfully.

Joseph worked so diligently that Potiphar saw he could be trusted. Before long, Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his whole house. Everything Joseph cared for was managed well. Joseph's diligence did not make his hard situation easy, but it kept his heart faithful. He chose to serve God well, even when life felt unfair.

Later, Joseph was falsely accused and thrown into prison. Again, he had a choice. He could have given up and decided that hard work did not matter. Instead, Joseph kept being faithful. He helped others and did his duties well, even in a dark prison.

The keeper of the prison saw that Joseph was trustworthy and put him in charge of the other prisoners. God saw Joseph's faithful heart too. In time, God lifted Joseph out of prison and placed him in a position of great responsibility over Egypt.

Joseph's story reminds us that our work matters to God. When we do our duties faithfully, even in hard places, we are really serving the Lord, and He sees every careful effort.

🌟 True Story

In 2020, a young man named Rehan Staton became known for his hard work. His family needed help, so Rehan took a job collecting trash in Maryland. Early each morning, before many people were awake, he climbed onto a garbage truck and helped lift heavy bags of trash from the city streets.

The work was dirty, tiring, and not easy. Some people might have complained or felt embarrassed about such a messy job. Some mornings, Rehan probably felt tired before the day had even begun. But he did not let tired feelings decide what he would do. Rehan chose to work hard.

He showed up faithfully, did his best, and kept a good attitude. The men he worked with noticed his dedication. They encouraged him to keep studying and not give up on his dreams.

Many mornings, Rehan collected trash first. Then he washed up and went straight to his college classes. He was often tired, but he kept going. He refused to let hard work, long days, or discouraging feelings stop him from learning.

After much diligence, Rehan reached an amazing goal. He was accepted into Harvard Law School, one of the most famous schools in the country. He worked hard there too, and in 2023 he graduated and became a lawyer.

Rehan's story reminds us that laziness listens to tired feelings and says, "I don't want to." But diligence chooses to do the right thing anyway. When we faithfully do the work in front of us, God can use it to help us grow and prepare us for bigger things.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- When Joseph was unfairly thrown into the dark prison, did he stop working hard?
- What messy, heavy job did Rehan do every morning before going to his college classes?
- Colossians tells us to work "heartily." What does it look like to have a hearty, cheerful attitude the next time you are asked to clean your room?

📖 Activity:

Tell the children to imagine that Jesus is coming over to your house for dinner tonight. Assign them a specific room or area to tidy up. Talk about how their attitude changes when they know they are cleaning for a very important guest. Remind them that Colossians tells us to do every chore with that exact same joyful, diligent attitude, because God is always watching our hard work!

Laziness/Diligence Day 5



🎧 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#135) — KJV

2 Thessalonians 3:10 "...if any would not work, neither should he eat." **Proverbs 14:23** "In all labour there is profit, but the talk of the lips tendeth only to [poverty]" **Proverbs 6:6-8** "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest."

♥ Apply the Promise!

God promises that hard work brings a good reward, but laziness leaves us hungry. Just like the tiny ant, when you choose to work diligently without needing anyone to boss you around, you are wise!

📖 Bible Story (Ruth 2)

Long ago, a woman named Ruth moved to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law, Naomi. Their husbands had died, and they were very poor with no way to buy food. Ruth did not sit at home and wait for someone else to help them. Instead, she decided to go to work. She went to the barley fields during the busy harvest and asked for permission to gather the leftover grain that the workers dropped on the ground.

The work was very hard. Ruth had to walk behind the harvesters in the hot sun all day long. She kept bending down over and over again to pick up tiny pieces of grain from the dirt. She did not complain, and she did not ask for an easier job. A man named Boaz owned the field. He noticed Ruth and asked his workers about her. They told him that Ruth had been working steadily since the early morning with only one short break to rest.

Because Ruth was so diligent, Boaz made sure she was safe and had plenty of water to drink. He even told his workers to purposely drop extra bundles of grain for her to find. That evening, Ruth carried home plenty of food for Naomi. Her hard work helped provide for both of them. Later, God blessed Ruth with a brand-new family, and she became the great-grandmother of King David!

Ruth's story reminds us that diligent love does not just wish things were better—it gets up and helps. When we faithfully do the work in front of us, God sees our efforts and can provide for our needs.

☀ True Story

In 2015, the world learned about a hardworking man named James Robertson who lived in Detroit, Michigan. For over ten years, James had a very hard time getting to his job at a factory. His old car had broken down, and the city buses did not go all the way to the building where he worked. Instead of making excuses, complaining about his bad luck, or giving up on his job, James decided he would do whatever it took to keep working.

Every single day, James walked a total of twenty-one miles just to get back and forth to work. He walked through the hot summer sun, the pouring rain, and the freezing winter snow. He left his house early in the afternoon and often did not walk back home until four o'clock the next morning. He only had time to sleep for a few short hours before waking up to do it all over again!

James never missed a single day of work. He always showed up on time with a quiet, humble, and happy attitude. He believed that having a job was a wonderful blessing, and he worked hard to do his absolute best every single day. Eventually, a man noticed him walking on the side of the road and shared his amazing story with the local news. Thousands of people were so inspired by his hard work that they donated money to buy him a brand-new car!

James's story reminds us that when we choose to work hard instead of making excuses, our hard work will eventually bring a wonderful reward.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What did Boaz do when he noticed how hard Ruth was working without resting?
- How many miles did James Robertson walk every day just to get to his job?
- Proverbs 14:23 says there is a "profit" or a good reward in all work. What is a good reward you get when you work hard on your schoolwork or chores?

📖 Activity:

Mark a small path around your house or yard. Have the children walk the path while carrying a "load" (like a basket of laundry or a few heavy books). Tell them to keep going until a timer goes off. Talk about how Ruth and James did not quit when they were tired. Remind them that being diligent means finishing the job even when it feels long or difficult!