



Growth Group Questions

May 12, 2019

1. If you can think of one, share a story of how your parents instilled a work ethic in you.

2. Proverbs 10:4–5

- [4] A slack hand causes poverty,
but the hand of the diligent makes rich.
- [5] He who gathers in summer is a prudent son,
but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame. (ESV)

Doug Wilson wrote, “The one who causes shame is one who causes shame to his parents. The shame is theirs because the responsibility to teach the lessons of work was theirs.”¹

Do you agree or disagree with Wilson’s comment? Why?

3. Here in America, we do not experience a “shame culture” as others do (think of children-parent relationships in Japan for one example). Yet there is still a sense that the actions of children reflect on their parents. The biblical mandate is that children are to honor their parents. In what ways does a diligent work ethic bring honor to one’s parents?

4. Parents can really drop the ball on teaching their children to work hard. Other parents might be too demanding, working their children too hard and demanding too much. Assuming you agree that these are two extremes to avoid, what do you think are some ways parents can avoid them both?

¹ Douglas Wilson, *Future Men* (Canon Press, 2001), 59.

For those of you who aren't parents or are not parenting right now – how do you avoid these extremes for yourself? In other words, do you drive yourself too hard or do you not drive yourself enough? Why?

5. Ironically, it's harder to be lazy (Proverbs 12:24; 15:19). Explain.

6. It seems like the Proverbs are against sleep. But they are actually *for* sleep. Again, in irony, the person who loves sleep won't get it. The person who works hard, will get to enjoy sleep.

Proverbs 3:24

[24] If you lie down, you will not be afraid;
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. (ESV)

How does hard work help the diligent person enjoy actual sleep?

7. What sorts of things can a person do to help them get into gear and ramp up their work ethic?

8. How does the gospel connect to this issue? Or, in other words, why should the Christian have an edge on unbelievers when it comes to a strong, diligent work ethic?

Take the time now, before group, to jot down at least one praise for how God has worked in your life this past week, and one way that the group can pray for you this coming week.