

# LIVING A FRUITFUL LIFE

## LESSON 2: DON'T BE LAZY

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*After completing this lesson, the children will have a better understanding of being zealous for the Lord.*

### TOPICS

Fruitfulness, Laziness

### OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

Praise and worship are an important part of a believer's life and children often learn best by watching and repeating what they see. So please, praise and worship together.

### SUGGESTED PARENT/CHILD ACTIVITY

Have toothpicks and a bowl of grapes placed on the table. Ask your child(ren) to make ants out of these materials. After everyone has made a few ants, have them turn to **Proverbs 6:6-8** in their Bibles.

**“Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.”**

Explain that today's lesson is about being lazy. The ant is an excellent example of a creature that is not lazy. They work endlessly together to build homes and gather food, and they do so without anyone telling them over and over to do it. We can all learn a lesson from the ant about working hard.

### SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

#### Introduction:

Our scripture today is from the second letter written by the Apostle Paul to the church members in Thessalonica. Paul was very concerned about the Thessalonians because they were becoming lazy. They knew that Jesus could return any day, so instead of keeping up with their normal work activities and chores, they just sat around waiting for the Lord to come. Were they doing the right thing? Before we read what Paul wrote to them about this, let's look at two words Paul uses in this letter.

**Idle: Unemployed, not busy, inactive, not inclined to work, lazy**

**Busybody: Someone who snoops into other peoples' affairs, a gossip**

#### Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 (A warning against idleness)

#### Discussion Questions:

1. How did Paul earn enough money to buy food when he visited Thessalonica? (***Worked night and day.***)
2. What rule did Paul give the Thessalonians? (***If a man will not work, he shall not eat.***)
3. How can this rule apply to kids your age? (***Even children can do chores and other things to help out around the house, school, and church.***)
4. Why would Paul urge the Thessalonians not to be busybodies? (***It is worse than being idle because it interferes with others.***)
5. What should the church members do with another who continues to be idle? (***Should not even associate with them so they would feel ashamed.***)

### CLASS EXERCISE (12 minutes)

Don't be Lazy - (See Separate Video)

### APPLICATION (2 minutes)

It is written in Proverbs that a lazy man will say there is a lion in the road as an excuse not to go out of his house. But his laziness will lead to poverty. As children, you may not be contributing to the income of your family, but laziness can still have damaging effects. As in our exercise today, goofing off and being lazy may seem good for the moment, but you can miss out on so much. Instead, be eager to help mom and dad, or clean your room, or study for school. The blessings from working hard can last a lifetime.

### CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)