

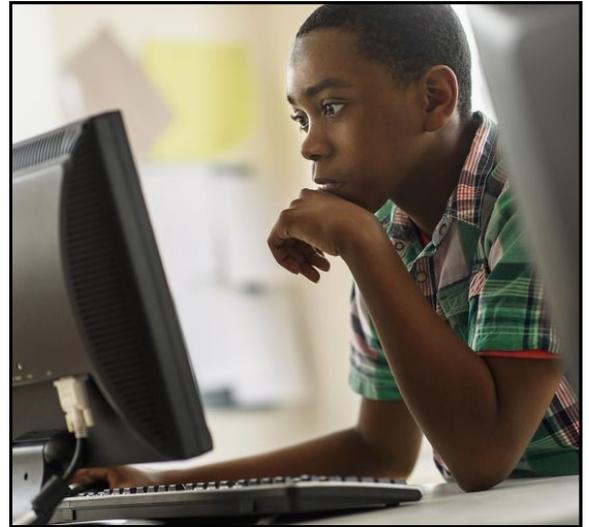
The 7 Deadly Sins

Greed
Lust
Gluttony
Pride
Envy
Anger

Lesson Seven: Laziness

Introduction

Look carefully at each picture. Does it picture for you laziness or diligence? Explain why.



Tell what each of the following passages teaches you about laziness.

Proverbs 10:4 Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.

Proverbs 12:24 Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labor.

Proverbs 13:4 A sluggard's appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

Proverbs 15:19 The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.

Proverbs 20:4 Sluggards do not plow in season; so at harvest time they look but find nothing.

Proverbs 21:25-26 The craving of a sluggard will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.

Proverbs 24:30-34 I went past the field of a sluggard, past the vineyard of someone who has no sense; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

Proverbs 26:13 A sluggard says, “There’s a lion in the road, a fierce lion roaming the streets!”

Proverbs 26:14 As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed.

Proverbs 26:15 A sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.

Proverbs 26:16 A sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven people who answer discreetly.

Ecclesiastes 10:18 Through laziness, the rafters sag; because of idle hands, the house leaks.

The apostle Paul spoke strongly against idleness and laziness.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12 In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.” We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat.

- What model did the Paul and his co-workers set for the Thessalonians?
- Explain the rule they gave the Thessalonians.
- What additional problems does idleness bring with it?

We have an idea what physical laziness looks like. What does spiritual laziness look like?

As damaging as physical laziness is, what makes spiritual laziness deadly?

The book of Hebrews addresses spiritual laziness versus spiritual diligence.

Hebrews 5:11-14 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 6:11-12 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

- How does Hebrews describe what spiritual diligence is?
- Describe the spiritual diligence which Jesus had.

The Lord desires and commands that we be diligent in our Christian living.

Matthew 25:14-30 ¹⁴“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,^[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

²¹“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²²“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

²³“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁴“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸““So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

- List the bad qualities of laziness which the wicked servant displayed.
- Why would you agree that laziness can be a deadly sin?
- What exactly was the diligence which the two good servants displayed?

Go back through the opening passages from Proverbs and tell what they teach you about diligence.