

WORK



PROVERBS #5



Bible studies 2012

ICE-BREAKER

How would you prioritise these three things? (1,2,3)

Family and Friends

Career / Work

Spiritual Life

If someone is working “full-time”, how many hours per week do you think they should be working?

Imagine you are working 40 hours a week. You spend 2 hours per week talking to your parents; 4 hours with friends; 6 hours on the internet; and 3 hours per week at Christian activities. Does this mean work is your #1 priority? Why or why not?

OUR NEED FOR WISDOM

All of us live in multiple communities. For example: we are a son or daughter, we are a student, we are an employee, we are a member of a church, and so on. Multiple communities mean we have multiple responsibilities.

Today we are going to spend most of our time thinking about our working life, our “job”, or “career”. But we will also spend some time thinking about the balance between the different communities in which we live.

Pray now that God will give your group wisdom as you study Proverbs together.

WORK IS IMPORTANT

Read the following proverbs:

6:6–11

14:23

22:13

26:15

12:11

20:13

26:14

What lessons are here for us as we work?

WORK IS GOOD

The proverbs above are not all the Bible has to say about work. Read Genesis 2:4–8, 15. What does this tell us about work?

WORK IS FRUSTRATING

After this good beginning came the Fall, when Adam and Eve rejected God. Read Genesis 3:17–19. What does this tell us about work?

Proverbs presents us with the ideal situation: *hard work always gives good results*. But in a fallen world work itself is sometimes frustrating and disappointing.

WORK IS NOT EVERYTHING

There's one more thing we need to realise about work. Read Exodus 20:8–11, and 34:21. What do we learn here about work?

CONCLUSION

Think about your studies or your job. Are you working well? Are you being lazy? Are you working *too* hard? Are you resting?

Think about the other parts of your life (family, friends, God, church, etc). How are you working in those areas? Are your studies or job dominating your life in an unbalanced way?

Spend some time praying for one another.