

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

2 Thessalonians

These questions are for the **April 17, 2016** sermon, "Productive Believers." Please read the sermon passage (2 Thessalonians 3:11-15) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

GOD'S GUIDELINES FOR A BIBLICAL WORK ETHIC ADDRESS . . .

1. **The idleness among us** (11-12)
 - A. Some of them--not all of them--were idle.
 - B. God has established the "Work 6-Rest 1" pattern.
 - C. Good, hard work leads to good, refreshing rest. Idleness leads to poor rest.
 - D. Be like God the Father and Jesus Christ who finish their work.
 - E. Command: do your own work quietly; earn your own living.
2. **The weariness among us** (13-15)
 - A. It's just a matter of time until those who work pick up the slack of the idle.
 - B. Hard workers can become cynical and even weary--wanting to give up.
 - C. Believers must vacate when others vacate. Look for opportunities to work harder.
 - D. Illustration: The keeper of the spring, by Peter Marshall.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: We live in a world that requires less physically demanding effort from us than our fathers and mothers. How do you think your sleep has been impacted by your work? What is the difference between rest and idleness?
2. Based on #1, above: God the Father and Jesus Christ (and the Holy Spirit) have specific work lined up that they accomplished/accomplish perfectly. What is the work that God has laid before you (whether "for profit" or not)? Are you content in it? Are you doing it to the best of your ability? Is there glory for God in the way you go about doing your work?
3. Based on #2, above: How have you had to make up for the slack of the idle around you with regard to your work (Moms, especially!)? What do you do with the emotions of cynicism and anger? Have you grown weary? How can you put on a new attitude?
4. Based on #2, above: Talk about this phrase: "Believers must vacate when others vacate." How does this impact your attitude? How does this impact the quality of your work?
5. Based on #2, above: The "Keeper of the spring" illustration reminds us that all work, done well for the glory of God impacts and improves our community and culture. Every job done for the glory of God has meaning. How does your "quiet and unseen" work impact this world for God's glory? Your for-pay work? Your work at home? Your volunteer work? Other?