Proverbs for Daily Living (Part-6)
Proverbs on Work
Sunday March 01, 2026 – Sermon Outline

Covered so far:
Proverbs on wisdom
Proverbs on relationships
Proverbs on family
Proverbs on purity and integrity
Proverbs on discipline and self-control

Today: Proverbs on Work

Today we consider various areas Proverbs speak to us about work and the workplace.

NINE WORKPLACE LESSONS FROM THE ANT

Proverbs 6:6-11
6 Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise,
7 Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler,
8 Provides her supplies in the summer, And gathers her food in the harvest.
9 How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep?
10 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep—
11 So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

Though tiny and seemingly insignificant, the ant models powerful work ethics that are deeply relevant to today's employee or leader. We consider nine insights:

1. Diligence (Hard Work)
The ant is consistently active and industrious. Shows steady effort without constant supervision.
Workplace application: A diligent employee builds trust and long-term credibility. Avoid procrastination.

2. Self-Motivation (Initiative)
"Which having no captain, overseer or ruler…" The ant works without external enforcement. Doesn't need micromanagement.
Workplace application: Take initiative. Seek solutions rather than waiting for instructions. Modern organizations especially value autonomous contributors.

3. Foresight (Future-Oriented Thinking)
"Provides her supplies in the summer…". The ant works in the present with the future in mind.
Workplace application: Plan. Prepare for predictable downturns. Anticipates risks and opportunities. Strategic thinking separates average workers from impactful ones.

4. Preparedness
"Gathers her food in the harvest.". The ant stores resources during seasons of abundance. Saves and allocates resources wisely.
Workplace application: Build skills before they are urgently needed. Create financial and professional buffers. Preparation reduces crisis-driven decisions.

5. Consistency
Ants do not work sporadically they work rhythmically and persistently.
Workplace application: Meet deadlines reliably. Deliver quality results consistently. Avoid bursts of enthusiasm followed by inactivity. Consistency often outweighs brilliance.

6. Time Awareness
The ant understands seasons: summer, harvest and winter.
Workplace application: Recognize opportunity windows. Understand timing in business cycles. Act when action is most effective. Timing is often as important as effort.

7. Discipline Over Comfort
"A little sleep, a little slumber…". The ant resists complacency.
Workplace application: Choose responsibility over ease. Manage distractions. Balance rest without drifting into laziness. Discipline sustains productivity.

8. Responsibility
The ant ensures survival of the colony. Its work contributes to something larger.
Workplace application: Understand how individual work affects the team. Takes ownership of outcomes. Thinks beyond personal convenience. High-performing teams are built on shared responsibility.

9. Wisdom in Smallness
The ant is small yet wise.
Workplace application: Impact is not about title. Anyone at any level can model excellence. Small, consistent actions compound into significant results

DILIGENCE VERSUS LAZINESS

Proverbs 10:4
He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Proverbs 12:24
The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor.

Proverbs 12:27
The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, But diligence is man's precious possession.

A lazy person starts something but doesn't finish it. The diligent person not only acquires resources but benefits from them fully. Laziness wastes even what has already been gained; diligence extracts full value from effort. Starting projects but not completing them yields no benefit.

PLANNING AND TIMING

Proverbs 21:5
The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.

The diligent person plans knowing that in order to see success – diligence and endurance is required.

REWARD

Proverbs 10:16
The labor of the righteous leads to life, The wages of the wicked to sin.

Proverbs 14:23
In all labor there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty.
God has appointed for us to enjoy the fruit of our labor.

OUR METHODS MATTER

Proverbs 13:11
Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, But he who gathers by labor will increase.

Proverbs teaches us to work with integrity and pursue the increase that comes through honest diligent work.

EXCELLENCE

Proverbs 22:29
Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.

The person who excels in his/her work will receive recognition.

BALANCE

Proverbs 23:4
Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease!

PRIORITIES

Proverbs 24:27
Prepare your outside work, Make it fit for yourself in the field; And afterward build your house.

"Outside work / field" referring to farming, livelihood, income, provision.
"Build your house" referring to establishing a household, security, stability, legacy.

Building a house without first ensuring productive land would lead to poverty and failure. Vision without preparation is foolish, and foundation precedes fulfillment. The wisdom principle is order and priority. Secure provision first; establish security and stability afterward.

DEPENDENCE ON GOD

Proverbs 16:3
Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.

Proverbs 16:9
A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

WOMEN AT WORK

Proverbs 31:13,16,31
13 She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands.
16 She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard.
31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.

Interestingly, Proverbs 31 describes the virtuous woman and highlights her at work.
Vs 13 speaks of her diligence and willingness.
Vs 13 speaks of her wise investments.
Vs 31 speaks of the outcomes. She is rewarded and gains renown.

SUMMARY

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Proverbs for Daily Living (Part-6)
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The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 1.5 to 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
Life Group Leader: To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon or review the Sunday Sermon notes. Please do not make your life group read through the complete sermon notes during the life group. All you need to do is have individuals read the Scriptures listed below and then open for a time of discussion, sharing and learning using the questions given below. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome
The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word
Read the following Scripture references*: Proverbs 6:6-11*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together
Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to share their learning. Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Discuss the nine workplace lessons from the ant as given in Proverbs 6:6-11:
1. Diligence (hard work)
2. Self-motivation (initiative)

3. Foresight (future-oriented thinking)
4. Preparedness
5. Consistency
6. Time awareness
7. Discipline over comfort
8. Responsibility
9. Wisdom in smallness

Each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key insights and how they see themselves applying it to their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey
Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another
Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:
1, families to be protected and strengthened
2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.

Close by thanking God together.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.
YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore
WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:
CHURCH: https://apcwo.org
FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons
FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english
DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional
JESUS CHRIST: https://examiningjesus.com
BIBLE COLLEGE: https://apcbiblecollege.org
E-LEARNING: https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn
WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools
COUNSELING: https://chrysalislife.org
MUSIC: https://apcmusic.org
MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: https://pamfi.org
CHURCH APP: https://apcwo.org/app
CHURCHES: https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches
WORLD MISSIONS: https://apcworldmissions.org
BELIEVERS BIBLE COMMENTARY: https://believersbiblecommentary.com

SERMON OUTLINE

In this sermon we consider key insights from Proverbs on work and the workplace. Nine workplace lessons from the ant. These include: 1. Diligence (hard work), 2. Self-motivation (initiative), 3. Foresight (future-oriented thinking), 4. Preparedness, 5. Consistency, 6. Time awareness, 7. Discipline over comfort, 8. Responsibility, and 9. Wisdom in smallness. We also consider several other aspects of work and work life that Proverbs addresses: diligence versus laziness, planning and timing, rewards, methods, excellence, work life balance, dependence on God and women at work. We draw practical wisdom principles that guide us in daily living. This sermon includes free audio (mp3) and video of this powerful, motivational, expository teaching, free printable PDF sermon outlines, sermon notes and small group study guide with discussion questions and presentation slides. All resources (sermon PDF, sermon MP3, sermon video, sermon presentation) are free for use in personal study, small groups, Bible study prayer groups, local churches, conferences, Bible colleges, etc.

KEYWORDS

Proverbs for Daily Living, Proverbs on work, work life, work place, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

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