

**Title: Sloth. The sluggard.
Proverbs 26:13-15, 6:6-11**

1. The sluggard

Here are three characteristics of the Sluggard.

a. Excuses

Proverbs 26:13

The sluggard makes excuses for inaction. Here, he doesn't want to even go out of his house, giving the excuse that it is dangerous out there. There is a lion.

Another manifestation of this is procrastination. Not taking responsibility. Slothful people will not begin things, will not finish things and will not face up to things.

One thing to note is that slothfulness is not just about not being diligent at work. It is also about ignoring the other important things in life.

b. Laziness & Stubbornness

Proverbs 26:14-16

Have you felt so lazy that you don't want to do anything at all? The sluggard can only turn on his bed. He can't even bring food to his mouth!

c. Poverty & Scarcity

Proverbs 6:6-11

While the ant is working, the sluggard is asleep. When winter comes, he is left without supplies to survive the cold days ahead. This brings poverty and scarcity.

2. The Ant

Proverbs 6:6-11, 30:25

a. Self-motivated

Ants have an inbuilt instinct to work. They work for the well-being of the colony.

One lesson for us is to have an instinct towards productive work. We should not need to be told what to do all the time.

b. Long-term view

There is an idea of gathering food at the right time. The diligent person thinks long term. He is not concerned just with the immediate, but he looks forward to and takes actions that affect his future.

c. Stewardship

Ants, although able to carry many times their weight, are still only small creatures. Compared to larger creatures, they have little strength. Yet they can be productive. They put their special features to good use. Each of us has been given certain special abilities and giftings. We use those as good stewards.

Understand what is important in life and act accordingly.

3. The Wise Person

Apply knowledge in practical ways that make a positive difference for himself and for others.
(*Proverbs 6:6-11*)

a. Our 'garden,' our occupation

Genesis 2:15, Colossians 3:22-24, and Proverbs 31:27.

Worship through our work. We glorify God when we do productive work.

b. Our Father's work, our serving (John 9:4)

Life is not just about work. Our priority is to do God's work. We do God's work in our occupation. We do God's work by ministering to others, too. In this, we make disciples. We build others up.

Conclusion

1. The Sluggard
2. The Ant
3. The Wise Person

Let us look to Jesus. He never stops working (*John 5:16-17*). Pursue God and God's calling for your life!

Discussion Questions (Discussion leaders may adapt the questions to suit their small groups)

1. Is it fine to be lazy at times? Why or why not?
2. What's your priority in life? What's the priority in God's calling for you?
3. What are the distractions to God's calling? What actions do you need to take to get rid of these distractions?

DBS/BOBILA Questions

1. What does this passage say about sloth?
2. What does this passage say about humans?
3. What does this passage say about God?
4. What do you need to change to better manage your priority?
5. With Whom/ When /Where/ How can you share this message?