

Slothfulness

Objective: Your child will be able to understand what slothfulness is and the importance of not being slothful.

Bible: KJV 1611 with apocrypha

Opening Statement

Has your mom ever asked you to clean up your room or wash the dishes and you take a very long time to do it? When you take a long time to do what it is asked it is considered to be slothful. When you are slothful, you are always going around looking for someone to take care of you instead of doing what God told you to do. If you are slothful with little things, you will be slothful when it comes to doing the work for the Lord. If you are not disciplined, you are slothful.

Vocabulary Words

Slothful- lazy and unwilling to make an effort to work.

- Synonym: idle, do nothing

Key Scriptures:

Proverbs 26:13 The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.

Proverbs 26:14 As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.

Proverbs 26:15 The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.

Proverbs 26:16 The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

- God says when you are slothful, you are too lazy to even feed yourself. You make excuses all the time to why something is not done.

Activity: Morning Task

Jonah

Jonah 1:1 Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,
Jonah 1:2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

Jonah 1:3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

Jonah 1:17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 2:10 And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Jonah 3:1 And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,

Jonah 3:2 Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

Jonah 3:3 So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

Jonah 3:4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

Jonah 3:5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

- Jonah was given a task to go to Nineveh to wake up our people because of all the wickedness that was happening there. Because he did not want to go to Nineveh, he decided he was going to run from the Lord by getting on a ship to Tarshish. In return, the Lord sent a leviathan to swallow up Jonah for 3 days and 3 nights. After being swallowed, he cried to the Lord and repented. The Lord then had the leviathan spit him out on dry land. He then went to wake up our people in Nineveh.

Q. Was Jonah slothful?

The servant

Matthew 25:14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

Matthew 25:15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Matthew 25:16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

Matthew 25:17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

Matthew 25:18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

Matthew 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Matthew 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Matthew 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Matthew 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

Matthew 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- The rich man gave each of his servants money. Some received more and some received less. The one that received the least amount of money, was slothful and did nothing with the money. He hid it instead. When the master returned and asked the servant what he did with the money he said he was afraid so he hid it. Because of this his money was taken away from him and given to someone else.

Q. Was the servant slothful?

Noah

Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Genesis 6:6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

Genesis 6:7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Genesis 6:14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

Genesis 6:21 And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

Genesis 6:22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

- There was so much wickedness in the world, that the Lord wanted to destroy everyone and everything. Noah found grace in the Lord's eyes because he kept the commandments. The Lord told Noah to build an ark and to take food, his family, and a specific amount of animals into the ark with him. Noah did not delay, but started building the ark as soon as the Lord told him to.

Q. Was Noah slothful?

Nehemiah

Nehemiah 1:1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,

Nehemiah 1:2 That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 1:3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

Nehemiah 1:4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

Nehemiah 2:1 And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence.

Nehemiah 2:2 Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,

Nehemiah 2:3 And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?

Nehemiah 2:4 Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 2:5 And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.

Nehemiah 4:1 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews.

Nehemiah 4:2 And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?

Nehemiah 4:3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.

Nehemiah 4:4 Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity:

Nehemiah 4:5 And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee: for they have provoked thee to anger before the builders.

Nehemiah 4:6 So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

Nehemiah 4:7 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,

Nehemiah 4:8 And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.

Nehemiah 4:9 Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

Nehemiah 4:21 So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.

Nehemiah 4:22 Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.

Nehemiah 4:23 So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing.

Nehemiah 6:1 Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;)

Nehemiah 6:2 That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.

Nehemiah 6:15 So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.

- Nehemiah worked for King Artaxerxes and when he heard that the wall of Jerusalem was knocked down, he asked the king if he could leave to help rebuild the wall. The king told him he could go but Sanballat was mad that the wall was being rebuilt. While the wall was being rebuilt, Sanballat and his men tried to fight Nehemiah and his men so that they would stop building the wall. Nehemiah had half the men building the wall while the other half was protecting the wall. Nehemiah was able to get the wall rebuilt.

Q. Was Nehemiah slothful?

Activity Time - Give your child a task and see if they do it speedily or if they drag their feet to do it. Can your child do their morning task without being told?

- **Morning Task**- For example you can tell your child that when they wake up in the morning you want them to brush their teeth, wash their face and spread up their bed without having to be told.
- **Afternoon Task**- You can tell your child when they come home from school you want them to immediately put their shoes on the shoe rack, take out some clean clothes and take a shower without being told 20 times.

Q & A- Review

- What does it mean to be slothful?
- Why is it important to not be lazy?
- Who are some people that were slothful and that was not slothful?
- What happens when you are slothful and lazy?
- What can you do the next time you are told to do one of your chores?

Closing

When you have a spirit of slothfulness on you, you are lazy and do not want to work. When you are slothful instead of being disciplined, you take your time to do everything and sometimes you do not even do it. Instead of people being able to rely on you, they are not able to count on you. If you can't help yourself, you will not be able to help your brother either. The next time you are told to do something will you do it speedily, or will you drag your feet and complain about it. Do you want to be compared to poop? No one wants to be around a slothful person and the Lord compares you to poop when you are slothful.

- Proverbs 18:9 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.
- Ecclesiasticus 22:1 -2 A slothful man is compared to a filthy stone, and every one will hiss him out to his disgrace. A slothful man is compared to the filth of a dunghill: every man that takes it up will shake his hand.
- Proverbs 21:25 The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.