

Rules for Life: Play well. Finish strong.



First, watch
this week's
video!

Use this guide to help your family learn how
God can help us be more responsible.

Activity

Word Work

WHAT YOU NEED:

Note cards and pencil

(If you don't have note cards, take sheets of paper, divide them into quarters, and tear/cut them to create note cards.)

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask your child to sit down with you. Ask, "What words would you use to describe a lazy person?"

Write down their responses on the note cards—one for each card.

Then ask, "What words would you use to describe a person who works hard?"

Write down their responses on the note cards—one for each card.

Next, tell them to choose three cards that have words on them that they would want to be known for. Ask them why they chose those words.

Talk About the Bible Story

Who was the young ruler of Israel who later wrote the wise saying we learned today? (*Solomon*)

Out of everything Solomon could have had, what did he ask God for? (*wisdom*)

What did Solomon become known for? (*He became known as one of the wisest people to ever live.*)

What did Solomon say about ants? (*Ants have no ruler, but they still store up food on their own; they are hard workers.*)

Describe what it feels like to be lazy.

How does it feel to work hard?

How can you tell if you're a hard worker or if you're lazy?

What's one thing that you tend to be lazy about? How can you work on being more responsible with that this week?

Parent: Share a story about a time you decided to stop being lazy in an area of your life—and how it paid off.



Responsibility:
Showing you
can be trusted
with what
is expected
of you

Memory Verse

Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large.
Luke 16:10a, NIV

Bible Story

Ant and Sluggard
Proverbs 6:6-8

Bottom Line

Work hard.

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, thank You for giving us an opportunity, each day, to work hard. We know that everything we do can show Your love to others. Please help us see ways we can work hard this week. Please work through us so we can make a difference in each other's lives. We love You! In Jesus' name, amen."



Responsibility means showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.

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DAY 1

Read Proverbs 6:6-8

Did you know?

- There are over 12,000 different species of ants.
- Ants can lift anywhere from 10 to 50 percent of their body weight depending on their species.
- In 2000, the world's largest ant's nest was found in Argentina measuring in at a whopping 3700 miles wide! This ginormous colony housed 33 ant populations that merged into one giant super colony with millions of nests and billions of workers.

What would happen if one of those ants suddenly stopped working? What would happen if 20 or 100 or 500 hundred stopped? Those ant colonies wouldn't function well at all if each ant didn't pull its own weight.

Responsibility is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you. It means you need to carry your own load, to do your own part. If you don't, that responsibility falls to someone else and others won't find it as easy to trust you the next time.

This week, when you're given a responsibility—whether big or small—think about that ant. Work hard and do your part so others will trust you.

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DAY 2

N
1

Read 1 Corinthians 3:8

Have you ever planted a garden? What happens if you plant all your seeds and then just walk away and never tend to it? Probably nothing. Farmers know that you have to put in the work if you want to reap a good harvest. If the farmer doesn't take his responsibility seriously, his family and families he grows food for won't eat.

What if this were true for us in everything we're responsible for? Can you imagine if life worked like a harvest? What if every time you didn't make your bed, your bed was taken away? What if every time you skipped your math homework, you got a big fat "zero" in math?

Grab a stack of sticky notes and write "WORK HARD" on each one. Then head to the kitchen and stick these notes on every vegetable or fruit you can find. Each time you (or someone in your family) grabs one of these items, remember your responsibility to work hard. Thank God for the opportunities He gives you each day to prove you can be trusted by doing what you're asked to do.

Work hard.

PARENT CUE

DAY 3

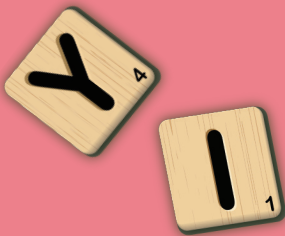


Read Galatians 6:5

Have you ever played a team sport? Ever had a player on your team that didn't really participate? Maybe they spent their time staring at the sky instead of paying attention to the game. Maybe they stood still instead of charging after the ball or didn't play defense. Wouldn't a team be even more successful, if everyone carried their own weight? On a team, every player has a position to play. One weak player can affect the whole team's performance.

Today's verse reminds us that each one of us need carry our own load. Just like you want the people around you to do their part, others are counting on you to work hard and do your part too! When you follow through with what's expected of you, then others learn to trust you.

This week, if you find yourself in any sort of "team" situation—whether it's a pick-up baseball game with friends in the neighborhood or a group project at school, think to yourself, "Am I carrying my own load right now?" If the answer is "no," ask God to help you change course and get involved so others can depend on you!



DAY 4

Read Colossians 3:23

Unscramble the words from today's verse below.

"Work at _____ you do with
Y E E V R I N T H G
_____ your heart. _____ as if you
L A L K O R W
were working for the _____ not for
R O D L
human masters." Colossians 3:23

What did you write in the that first blank? Yep, everything. When there's a job to be done, what if the most powerful man or woman you can think of (like a president, or queen or king) walked into the room? Would you slack off or would you work harder because someone super important was there? You'd probably work harder, right?

How much more important is your heavenly Father? He is way more powerful than any elected president or reigning queen. When you're tempted to give up or quit, think about working hard for God!

At your next family meal, read today's verse out loud. Ask your parents to give an example of something they're responsible for that's not all that fun. Then ask them the answer the following question: How does this verse help you think about that responsibility in a new way?

