

WISDOM'S CRY

Adultery vs. Purity

Small Group Discussion Questions

Look back at your notes from this morning. There were seven illustrations throughout the book of Proverbs relating to Laziness vs. Diligence. Which one was most significant for you?

Read Proverbs 21:25-26 and Romans 14:7-9.

Proverbs 21 says that the desire of the sluggard kill him. What causes a lazy man to be lazy? (Remember, you do what you do because you want what you want.) What then are the idols that consume his heart?

How does Romans 14:7-9 fit into this discussion?

CASE STUDY:

Emma and Noah are both in their early 40's. They have three children in grades 6, 9, and 10. They are so busy that standard things around the house continually seem to be left undone. The dishes are piled so high that you can't even run water out of the kitchen faucet (and they've been using paper plates for 5 days in a row). The kids don't have clean clothes to wear. The family van is 3,000 miles overdue for an oil change. The grass is so long that the neighbors are thinking of buying some goats to put in Emma and Noah's front yard to keep the grass cut down!

Here is Emma's basic schedule: She gets up around 8, spends 30 minutes reading her Bible, gets herself all prettied up and is at her job by 9:30. She gets off of work just in time to go to school and pick the kids up. For the next three hours she plays chauffeur and runs the kids around to dance, football practice, gymnastics, private music lessons, and volleyball practice. Each of their kids generally have 2 after-school events every day throughout the week. On the way home (typically between 6:30-7) she'll either pick up a pizza or grab some sort of microwavable family meal on

the way home. By the time they get done eating, it is after 8. For the next hour or so, she'll spend time helping kids with homework, nagging her husband to fix the bathroom sink, and browsing through a magazine. 9-10 is time that her husband and her have reserved to spend time together watching TV or chatting about their day. Then she climbs into bed.

Noah's schedule is similar. He doesn't need as much sleep as Emma so he is normally up by 6. It is his responsibility to get the kids up, breakfast fixed, and take them to school. He then rushes to work and spends the rest of the day there...he typically doesn't get home until 6 PM. If the kids happen to get home early, he'll spend some time playing catch with his sons or shooting some hoops with his daughter. (If the kids aren't home, he is always able to sneak some work home with him in his briefcase.) They all eat together at 7. From 8-9 he works on some "homework" of his own (aka-work that he brings home), from 9-10 he spends time with Emma. And then he is off to bed (unless he is really behind in his work stuff). Weekends are more of the same for both Emma and Noah.

Take 3-5 minutes and silently ponder what you would say to Emma and Noah. You may want to especially look at passages in Proverbs relating to the Ant (6:6-11) and the Road (15:19-17).

Some other things that you might want to think through:

- How will you help them to see that this is an area of worship?
- How does the issue of laziness fit into this?
- Is it possible to be insanely busy, yet still be lazy?
- "You do what you do because you want what you want": What questions can you ask to help them to see their own sinful and selfish desires in their scheduling?
- Your goal isn't just to change behavior! If behavior changes without the heart being transformed, you have merely replaced a wooden idol with a bronze idol!