CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Winning in Life

Lesson 5: Diligence

About This Lesson

This lesson concludes the series Winning in Life and encourages youth to be diligent by putting their hands to something so they will work and be productive.

Key Takeaway: Knowing that you're blessed causes you to want to set your hand to something! Be productive and live with purpose!

Key Verse: Proverbs 13:4 *The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.*

Teaching Outline:

I. A STRONG WORK ETHIC IS A GODLY VIRTUE

Proverbs 10:4–5 *He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.* [5] *He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.*

A. The Bible is the guidebook for winning in life, and it strongly emphasizes the importance of working and not being lazy.

B. A word for young ladies: someday, when you are thinking about marrying, remember these absolute essentials in a man:
   1. Born-again Christian
   2. Kind-hearted
   3. Strong work ethic

C. Knowing that you're blessed causes you to want to set your hand to something! Be productive and live with purpose!

Deuteronomy 28:8 *The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.*

II. A STRONG WORK ETHIC ISN'T JUST GOOD FOR YOUR BANK ACCOUNT – IT IS GOOD FOR YOUR SOUL!

Proverbs 13:4 *The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.*

A. It's a blessing to be able to work.

B. It's a blessing to be productive.

C. It's a blessing to create, to build, to restore, to improve, to provide, to cultivate, to grow, to help, and to get to the end of a day and realize that you made something better than when the day began.

D. It's good for your soul because there is something deep inside all of us that is programmed/created to make a positive, God-led, and God-inspired difference in the world.
   1. God gave each person gifts and talents to use for His glory and to build His kingdom. You are gifted. Use your gifts, don't keep them hidden.

   Colossians 3:23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.

E. If something is worth doing, it is worth doing well!

F. Even in his captivity, Daniel was praised for his excellence. He didn't whine and complain. Daniel 5:12 says, "Inasmuch as an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas were found in this Daniel…"

G. Don't just work for money. Do things that bring you and others SUBSTANCE! Work hard for things that have substance. Be diligent in these things, and your life will be enriched! Your soul will be full!

III. KEEP BEING CONSISTENT

A. Keep working hard.

B. Keep doing the right thing.

C. Keep trusting God, and good things will happen because consistency is key!
1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1. The enemy wants you to think that your hard work is in vain. He's wrong! When you work hard and keep trusting God, you will experience incredible victory in life!

Bottom Line:
God has destined you to win in life!

Small Group Time:

Jesus has made it possible for us to have an abundant life. We are destined to win in life! We have discussed five keys to winning in life: faith, love, humility, generosity, and diligence. For each of these keys listed below, answer the following questions:

- Why do you think this is a key to being successful in life?
- Name a scripture or person from the Bible who is a good example of this?
- Is there someone you personally know who is a good example of this? And how so?
- How can you apply and grow in this area in your own life?

1. FAITH – Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

2. LOVE – Matthew 22:36–40 *"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" [37] Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' [38] This is the first and great commandment. [39] And*

the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' [40] On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

3. HUMILITY – Proverbs 22:4 *By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life.*

4. GENEROSITY – Proverbs 11:24–25 *There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. [25] The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.*

5. DILIGENCE – Proverbs 13:4 *The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.*

Declaration:
"I will choose to be diligent as I work and use my talents to help others."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** What area of your life do you need to be more diligent in?
- **Pray:** Ask God to show you areas to be more diligent in and let His strength help you improve in those areas.
- **Read:** Search through the book of Proverbs for all the verses that talk about laziness, slothfulness, work, and diligence.
- **Live It:** Spend more time and effort on your schoolwork, relationships, projects around the house or at church, and on seeking God. Each day, choose an area to practice diligence.
- **Create:** Make a poster, poem, song, or video showing God's keys to winning in life: faith, love, humility, generosity, and diligence.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: If you were an archaeologist, what object from history would you hope to dig up and find?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Have the young people gather in small groups and make a list of people in the Bible who showed diligence and what they did. Let the groups share their lists and discuss examples such as Noah building the ark, Moses leading the Israelites for 40 years, Ruth providing for her mother-in-law, Nehemiah rebuilding the wall, and Paul spreading the Gospel despite all the hardships, etc.

Opening Affirmation: "God wants me to win in life and has given me His playbook. God's keys to winning in life are faith, love, humility, generosity, and diligence."

Giving Time: Galatians 6:9 *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

We need to be diligent by persisting in every area of our lives—even in giving. Being a consistent giver in kingdom work will bring kingdom rewards of people hearing the Good News about Jesus and receiving Him as their Savior.

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: Challenge the young people to put their hands to something new this week to help someone or bring substance to their lives. Have them make a video of what they did and how they felt before and after. Let them share their videos on the youth group site or next week at the youth group.

Biblical Worldview: Today, many people live on handouts and are enabled so they do not work. This doesn't help them; it brings laziness and a lack of a sense of accomplishment. When young people follow God's plan for a winning life, they will choose diligence over a life of dependency on handouts. As they put their hands to something and feel accomplishment, they can help their peers see that God's ways are the best.

Outreach/Missions: Have the youth discuss and choose a community service project. Let them make the arrangements and work hard to help the community see God's love in action.