

# **work rest play**

LEADERS NOTES

**Ken Moser**



## **LUKE: WORK REST PLAY + LEADER'S NOTES:**

### **Dear Leader,**

#### **Welcome to Work Rest Play!**

The goal of this study series is to help your small group understand what it means to live in a way that honors our Lord in every area of life.

These leader's notes are designed to give you a brief yet clear help as you go through the questions.

#### **Please note a couple of important things:**

1. You may find that these studies have too much content. I wrote them this way because many of us have had the horrible experience of realizing that the study was moving too quickly and we were soon going to run out of time! With this in mind, I decided that "more may be helpful" and erred on giving too many questions, Bible passages etc. There are usually three Bible passage per study—you may find this to be too much content. If you have time, go over the study beforehand to decide if there is indeed, too much here for your group. You can simply trim the studies by dropping out a sharing question or one of the Bible passages.
2. With a bit of prior preparation, you may be able to stretch some of these studies over two weeks. If you think the topic is valuable, and don't wish to cut out any content, give it a try.
3. Some groups may find it helpful to do the studies in advance. In other words, if your group is comfortable with this, have them do it before they come to the weekly group (kind of like homework!) This will give them time to reflect on the study and be prepared.
4. Remember, it is ok to not know all the answers. Young people are good at asking tough questions. Your job is to help them get to know Jesus better. God doesn't expect you to know everything. Tell them that "that is a great question, I'm not sure I know the answer to this. Can you give me a week to check it out?" You can then find someone who may know the answer and report back to the group.
5. Finally, the answers I have provided are my view on what are the true and appropriate answers for each question. Please realize that you may have slightly different understanding and approach the questions a bit differently. That is ok.

I do hope you enjoy these studies and that they are a real blessing to your group!

Ken Moser

# LUKE: WORK REST PLAY + LEADER'S NOTES:

## WORK PART 1: DON'T BE LAZY!

Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. Proverbs 10:4

Dear Leader,

This study is designed to show your group that:

1. The wise life is a life of diligent work.
2. God wants his people to avoid laziness.
3. A lack of work leads to a lack of food and your basic needs being met.
4. God takes it seriously when someone refuses to work—and so should we.

Be prepared, each person in your group will need Old Testaments for this study.

*Let's get started*

**Design your perfect job. What would it be? How much would you earn? Think big and try to be specific.**

**Do you look forward to leaving school and going to work? Why / why not?**

**Greg & the “good life”** (Have someone in the group read this story aloud)

A few months back Greg finished high school. He decided that he would take a year off to “figure things out” before he made any big decisions. For the last two months he has been busy living the good life. He sleeps 12 hours a day, plays the latest computer games and fills his nights with late night TV. So far he has lasted two months on his life’s savings ( \$300 ) but it is running out. His mom tells him that he must get a job and start paying rent or “she’ll throw him out on the street.” **What would you say to Greg?**

(Circle your answer and then discuss it with the group)

Way to go—can you last another 2 months on your cash?

Sounds like the perfect life

Get a job you bum

His mom is totally unreasonable

What a waste of time

Can I come over and hang out?

Something else \_\_\_\_\_

**Read Proverbs 6:6–11: The “sluggard” v. the ant**

**Do you know what a “sluggard” is?**

A lazy person

**What is another word or term you would use?**

**What does the ant do that we should admire and imitate?**

Prepares food. Gathers food for the future.

**What are the things the sluggard does wrong?**

Sleeps and rests too much. Sits around instead of working.

**What consequences will the sluggard face?**

Poverty and having his / her needs unmet.

**How can you avoid being a sluggard?**

**More from Proverbs: Read Proverbs 24:30–34.**

**What did the unwise lazy man do?**

He did not tend to his field.

**What should he have done instead?**

Kept it free of weeds, kept the wall up. Used the field to produce a crop.

**What did the author of this proverb learn from the sluggard?**

Laziness will lead to poverty and a lack of basic needs like food.

**Let’s move to the New Testament: If you don’t work, you don’t eat! Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6–13**

**Why do you think some people are lazy?**

**Why does the Apostle Paul warn us to stay away from a Christian who does not want to work?**

It could spread among the believers. Paul wants them to follow his example.

**What was the example he set for the believers there? (See v. 7–9)**

He did not live undisciplined, he paid for his needs, he worked night and day in order not to be a burden.

**Why do you think Paul says “If you don’t work you don’t eat?” (v. 10)**

The lazy person must be taught that God wants his people to work and not be lazy.

**What are the people doing that he is arguing against? (See v. 11)**

They are lazy and spend their time gossiping (‘being a busybody’ = gossiping)

**Have you ever met someone who just won’t work? What would you say to them in light of this teaching?**

**Greg revisited**

**In light of God’s attitude toward the lazy, what does Greg need to do?**

**What should his mother do?**

### **More wisdom from the book of Proverbs**

This great book in the Bible is full of teaching on a wide range of subjects. Here is more wisdom on the topic of work. Have a look at what each one says.

12:11

14:23

16:26

18:9

21:25

22:29

28:19

(See also 31:10-24)

*getting active*

### **Helping each other**

**How can this group help each other not to be lazy?**

We need to encourage each other. We must set examples. When one of us is lazy we must rebuke and correct.

**Do we need to change any of our attitudes in regards to work?**

### **LET’S pray**

Pray that we will honor the Lord in the way we work.

Pray for strength to resist laziness.

Pray for anyone we know who is looking for work.

Other things we can pray for \_\_\_\_\_

### **STAY TUNED...**

Next week we will look at work and greed!

# LUKE: WORK REST PLAY + LEADER'S NOTES:

## WORK PART 2: BE CAREFUL OF GREED!

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15

Dear Leader,

This study is designed to show your group that:

1. We must avoid greed at all costs.
2. Our wealth must not keep us from a relationship with God.
3. We must live generous lives—God loves it when we are characterized by giving.

Be prepared, there is probably way too much material here. With a bit of prior preparation, this study could be run over two weeks.

*let's get started*

I would be truly happy if I had.... (Place a ✓ in the appropriate box)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 million dollars | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 million dollars                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 100 million dollars  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 billion dollars | <input type="checkbox"/> I'm pretty happy with what I've got | <input type="checkbox"/> Another amount _____ |

Why did you choose that amount?

**Christie is confused.** (Have someone in the group read this story aloud.)

Christie is a young woman who is a Christian and has a good life. She has a new cell phone, a new laptop, a lot of great clothes, and lives in a large house with her family. She knows she should be happy with what she has, but it is a struggle. She often daydreams about having a bigger house, lots more clothes and being able to buy whatever she wants. She decides to get a job that will pay the most amount of money to fulfill this dream.

**What advice would you give Christie?** (Circle your answer and then discuss it with the group.)

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Join the club and just get used to it | Give in to your desires and become a treasure hunter |
| Get counseling                        | I don't see the problem                              |
| Learn to fight this urge              | Pray   |
| Something else_____                   |  |

Why do you think people daydream about being rich? Is it a good thing to do?

Should we choose our future occupation solely on how much it pays?

**Be very careful, part 1: The story of the Rich Fool. Read Luke 12: 13–21.**

**What is the first thing that impacts you when you read this story?**

**What is Jesus warning us about?**

The danger of greed. The danger of seeing your life as ‘having an abundance of possessions.’ The danger of a life of material wealth without being rich toward God.

**Read v 15 again. Why do you think Jesus is so emphatic here?**

Because that is our danger – we see our life as consisting of what we own. This was the person in the crowd’s problem.

**What did the man in the story do that was wrong?**

He was greedy and he shut God out of his life.

**Have you ever met anyone like the man in this parable?**

**How can we use our work to be “rich towards God?”**

Give generously. Don’t work so much that you shut God out of your life.

**What lessons are there for us in this story?**

Be very careful with our wealth. Be rich toward God.

**Be very careful part 2: You could get trapped. Read 1 Timothy 6: 6–10.**

**List every bad thing that is attached with wanting to get rich in this passage.**

Temptation. Trap. Harmful desires. Plunge into ruin and destruction. Root of all kinds of evil. Wandering away from the faith. Pierced with many pains.

**Is it realistic to not want to be rich?**

**What should we be aiming for instead (v. 6–8)?**

Godliness and contentment (being satisfied in our relationship with God).

**What is the end result for many Christians who desire to be rich (v. 10)?**

Wandering from the faith and pain.

**What must we do in order to avoid this?**

Be on our guard. Keep each other accountable.

## **THINK SPOT 1: But what if I'm rich, and I just can't help it? 1 Timothy 6: 17-19**

Some of us just can't help but have a lot of money. (For instance, we may have wealthy parents.) In fact, if you have enough money to buy this Bible study booklet you should consider yourself to be wealthy compared to the rest of the world. What do we do? **Read 1 Timothy 6: 17-19.**

### **What must we not do?**

Put our hope (trust) in wealth.

### **What must we not be?**

Proud or arrogant.

### **What are we to do instead?**

Be rich in good works. Be generous. Ready to share.

### **What is the promise given to us if we don't get trapped by money?**

A treasure for the future (in eternal life).

### **What are some habits that you can build into your life to be generous and to make sure you don't get trapped by wealth?**

Give a percentage of what you earn. Try to increase your giving as you earn more (i.e. moving from 10%-15%-20% etc.). Praying about your wealth. Have friends who encourage generosity. Do not get into too much debt. Don't buy things you can't afford.

## **THINK SPOT 2: Be generous: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

God has been generous to us by sending his only son to die for our sin. Being generous with our money is one big way to respond to this.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 and answer the following questions:

### **What does it mean to "sow sparingly?"**

To not be generous in giving away our money, time, possessions etc.

### **What does it mean to "reap sparingly?"**

We will not see a generous blessing.

### **Why do you think God loves a "cheerful giver?"**

Because God is generous – he has given us life, our wealth, and His son who died for us on the cross.

### **What does this mean for us right now?**

Give away money (pocket money or allowance), give a percentage of any money we earn.

### **What does it mean for us in the future?**

When we earn more, we must give more. (We must also be generous with our time and belongings).

### **How much of our income do you think we should try to give away?**

(This is a matter of personal decision. The common view has been to 'tithes' 10-15%. And to be generous on top of this – often called an 'offering').

### **Helping each other**

In light of what you have read from God's word, what advice would you now give Christie?

**How can we encourage each other to be careful when it comes to wealth?**

Pray with and for each other. Set an example for each other. Take on a project that this group could support etc.

**Is there anything that we need to change in our attitude toward money?**

### **LET'S pray**

Pray that we will not be foolish when it comes to wealth.

Pray that we will always be "rich towards God."

Pray that we will never get trapped in our desire to be rich.

Pray that we will be generous with our money.

Thank God for all the great blessings he has given us.

Pray that each of us will be satisfied with the amount of money we have.

### **STAY TUNED...**

Next week we will look at the need to take a day off!

# LUKE: WORK REST PLAY + LEADER'S NOTES: REST part 1: TAKE TIME OFF!

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Genesis 2:2

Dear Leader,

This study is designed to show your group that:

1. We must take a time to rest from work each week.
2. We must follow Jesus' example by taking time out to rest and pray.
3. Heaven will be a place of rest.

Be prepared, there is a lot of content here.

*Let's get started*

**What would you say to someone who says to you, "I am way too busy to have a day off?"**

Join the club

That's OK, it's not that important.

Hey, life is too short to rest

What's a day off?

Be careful, it's important to take some time off.

Something else? \_\_\_\_\_

**Brad is too busy.** (Have someone in the group read this story out loud.)

Brad is in his final year of high school. He is a committed Christian but his parents want him to spend this year concentrating on his schoolwork. He is under pressure to get good grades so that he can do "the best course at the best university." His parents want him to drop out of youth group (and his weekly Bible study group) and only go to church once a week. They just don't see any need for him to take a day off as, "studying isn't really work." In addition to this, Brad loves to play football and is on a local team. One last thing, he loves the saxophone and plays in one of the school bands. Brad just doesn't think he can afford to take a day off each week and "rest."

**What would you say to Brad?**

**Is it possible for him to do everything and take a day off each week?**

**If you took a day off, what would you have to give up or rearrange in order to do it (i.e. study etc.)?**

**Work hard and then enjoy a day of rest: Read Exodus 20: 8-11**

**If you were to live out these verses, what would you avoid doing on your day off?**

Whatever is called 'work' in your life. For most of us, this is either study or our money making job.

**Is it practical in these busy times to take a day off each week?**

No but God commands it!

**What do you say to someone who says, "But I just have too much to do to take a day off?"**

Be careful, don't be deceived – God wants us to rest. It is the best way to get the most out of life (if you have 'too much to do' you may need to cut some things out of your life).

**What do you need to do in order to have a day off?**

[If you want to read more on this look up Exodus 31: 12-18!]

**Even God took a day off! Read Genesis 2: 1-3.**

**What had God been doing the previous 6 days?**

Creating the heavens and the earth.

**Why do think he took the next day off?**

To set a pattern and example for us.

**Why was this day so special?**

Because God declared it to be.

**If it was important for God to "rest," what does this tell us?**

We must follow His example and take a day of rest as well.

**Even Jesus took a break now and then**

Have a look at these Bible verses and answer the questions below.

**Matthew 14: 13:      Mark 6: 30-32      Luke 5: 15-16**

**Why did Jesus decide to take a break?**

Matthew=He received bad news.

Mark = He needed a rest.

Luke = to pray.

**What actions did he take to make it happen?**

He went to a place where there were no people.

**What does he model for us?**

We need to get away regularly to pray and connect with God.

**What would a “quiet, restful day” look like for you?**

**God’s ultimate goal for us—to have eternal rest**

**What do these passages tell us about God’s ultimate plan for us?**

**Matthew 11:28–30   Hebrews 4:9–11   Revelation 14:13**

**What does it mean that Jesus promises us “rest?”**

Rest from trying to fulfill the requirements of the law. Also = Heaven!

**What is it rest from?**

Again, trying to obey the law (Matthew 11:28–30). It is also rest from pain and crying and anxiety.

**What do you think eternal rest will consist of?**

**Brad revisited**

What would you encourage Brad to do, in light of what we have read from God’s word?

*getting active*

**Helping each other**

**Is there anything that you need to change in light of what we have read in God’s word today?**

**What things must you do (or drop) in order to take a day off?**

Whatever is ‘work’ in our lives.

**What would you say to someone who says, “My parents would never let me have a day of rest?”**

They need to pray. They need to set an example by getting their work done in six days (homework etc). They need to speak with their parents and try and explain what they would like to see happen. They should learn to negotiate (“If I do all my household chores, may I take a day off?”).

**How can this group help each other with this issue?**

Pray. Set examples. Encourage each other to take time off each week.

## **LET'S pray**

Pray that we will be committed to spending a day in rest.

Pray for strength to resist working too much.

Pray for anyone we know who is struggling with this issue.

Pray for anyone who has dropped out of Christian fellowship because of work or study pressures.

Other things we can pray for \_\_\_\_\_

## **STAY TUNED...**

Next week we will look at the need to have Christian fellowship each week!

# LUKE: WORK REST PLAY + LEADER'S NOTES:

## REST part 2: BE in CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sins of deceitfulness. 3:12-13

Dear Leader,

This study is designed to show your group that:

1. We must give high priority to meeting with other believers each week.
2. We must encourage each other so that we do not grow a hard heart against God.
3. We must meet regularly in Christian fellowship to encourage other believers.

*Let's get started*

**What would you say to someone who says, "I don't go to youth group or Bible study anymore. In fact, you don't need to go to church to be a Christian"?** (Circle your answer / answers)

You must be joking

I understand, we are all so busy these days

Get your priorities right

Hey, we miss you, please come

Be careful you're on dangerous ground

Something else \_\_\_\_\_

**Is there anything that makes it difficult for you to go to youth group or Bible study each week?**

**Wendy is working** (Have someone in the group read this story out loud)

Wendy just got a job at a local fast food restaurant. In the job interview she told her future boss that she couldn't work on Fridays or Sundays due to her youth group commitments. Unfortunately, some of the staff has left and she is now told that she has to work on Friday evenings and Sundays for a month or two. If she can't, she is told "she'll lose her job."

**What should Wendy do?** (Circle your answer and then discuss it with the group)

Tell her boss to get lost

Hey, it's only a month—she can skip the Christian stuff for a short while

Explain to the boss the situation and hope for the best

Sabotage the burgers and hope the place gets shut down

Pray and let God take care of it

Look for a new job

Something else \_\_\_\_\_

**Meeting with other Christians will keep your heart soft. Read Hebrews 3:12-14**

**What is the danger that each of us faces according to v. 12?**

Having a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from God.

**What is the solution to this in v. 13?**

Encouraging each other daily.

**What is the promise that is given to us in v. 14?**

We will go to heaven (share in Christ) if we stay Christian.

**Have you ever met with other Christians and come away from the time feeling spiritually stronger as a result?**

[If you want to understand more about the dangers we face you can read 3:7-11 & 3:16-19]

**Keep spurring each other on: Read Hebrews 10:23-27**

**What are we told to do in v. 23?**

Hold firmly to the hope we have in Jesus.

**What is the promise we are given in this verse?**

Jesus is faithful – He will bring us to eternal life because of His death and resurrection.

**Why is it important to continue in Christian fellowship, at places like youth group or Bible study, according to v. 24-25?**

To encourage other believers to be loving and do good things.

**What happens to those who hear the message and continue to live in disobedience? (v. 26-27)**

Judgment and punishment.

**Being ‘refreshed’... being a ‘refresher’**

The Bible gives us a great image of what meeting with another believer can do for us; it calls it “being refreshed.” Imagine a cool swim on a hot day or a big drink when you’re thirsty — you get the picture.

Look up these Bible verses. Note what they say about the effect you can have on another Christian and why it is so important for our souls to meet together regularly.

**Romans 15:31-32**

**1 Corinthians 16:17-19**

**2 Timothy 1:15-17**

**Philemon 1:7**

**Philemon 1:7 (See also v. 20)**

**Wendy revisited**

What would you encourage Wendy to do, in light of what we have just read from God’s word?

What should she say to her boss?

## Helping each other

**What can you do to make sure that you can meet with other Christians each week?**

MAKE SURE THAT YOU GO TO YOUTH GROUP / BIBLE STUDY / CHURCH TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS.

**Is there anything you must change to make Christian fellowship a priority in your life?**

**What should we do if one of us begins to skip out on youth group or this small group?**

Meet with them and try to talk them into not skipping.

We could go through their schedule to see if we could help organise their schedule so they could keep going to youth group.

We could offer to pick them up or travel with them to youth group.

Finally, we must go through Hebrews 10: 23-27 and explain the seriousness of the issue.

## LET'S pray

Pray that we will give meeting with other believers a high priority.

Pray for anyone we know who is struggling with this issue.

Pray for anyone who has dropped out of Christian fellowship because they are doing too much.

Other things we can pray for \_\_\_\_\_

## STAY TUNED...

Next week we will look at being a Christian on the sporting field!

# LUKE: WORK REST PLAY + LEADER'S NOTES: PLAY PART 1: HONOR JESUS ON THE SPORTING FIELD.

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Dear Leader,

This study is designed to show your group that:

1. We be thankful to God for all things—including sports.
2. We must undertake sporting competition in a way that honors God.
3. We must seek to love those we compete against.
4. We must make sure that our commitment to sport doesn't get in the way of our commitment to Jesus.

*Let's get started*

If you could go to any sporting event in the world, what would it be?

When I play a sport, I... (Place a ✓ in the appropriate box/boxes)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Never take it seriously     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Play fair, play hard                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Win at all costs            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cheat a little bit                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Get hurt                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Get too aggressive and ruin the game |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do it just for the exercise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I hate sports                        |

**Matt gets mad.** (Have someone in the group read this story out loud)

Matt is a competitor. There is not a sport that he wouldn't play or enjoy. He is a good athlete—good enough to make most sporting teams. He is also a committed Christian who loves going to youth group and Bible study. The trouble is, when Matt gets anywhere near sport he gets so competitive that he becomes “a different person.” He gets angry with players on his team who make mistakes, he plays too hard against the opposing team, and he yells at the ref when things don't go his way. Matt needs to win at all costs. It's as if there are two different Matts—one on the field and one off.

What would you say to Matt?

Can you be Christ-like while you're competing in sports? If so, how?

The Bible gives us some guidelines that are helpful in figuring out how we should play and how committed we should be to it.

**Do it all for God's glory. Read Colossians 3: 17**

**How can we play sport "in the name of the Lord Jesus?" (Can you give practical examples?)**

Play fair. Don't fight or get too aggressive. Congratulate teams who make good plays or win.

**What does it mean to "give thanks to God" on the sporting field?**

Thank Him for the opportunity to enjoy health and athletic movement. Thank Him for the facilities or the outdoors. Thank Him for team mates and friends.

**How should a Christian be a different athlete or sportsman compared to a non-Christian?**

Play fair. Don't take it too seriously. Don't get too angry. Congratulate other players/teams.

**Love your enemy—love those who play against you: Read Luke 6:27-31**

**How do we relate what these verses teach us to sport and competition?**

We must love our competitors.

**How can we be loving and still play to win?**

These two concepts aren't mutually exclusive. We can love those we compete against and still try and win.

**What do we do if we are playing against someone (or a team) that we really dislike?**

Pray for strength to not get angry. Try not to take the whole thing too seriously (if possible).

**What do we do if a referee makes a bad call against our team? What must our attitude be toward the ref?**

We must accept the Ref's decision. We must respect the Ref. We must try and not rip him/her apart behind their back.

**Great sporting metaphors from the Bible**

The Bible writers often used athletics as an illustration for leadership of living the Christian life. If you have time, look at what these Bible verses say about how we are to live as followers of Jesus.

Acts 20: 24

1 Corinthians 9: 24-27

1 Timothy 4: 8

2 Timothy 2: 5

2 Timothy 4: 7-8

## **Running the race—staying a Christian: Read Hebrews 12: 1-3**

**What is the race that the Bible wants us to stay committed to?**

The Christian race – following Jesus.

**What is every Christian in danger of? (v. 3)**

Getting tangled up by sin.

**How can our involvement in sport cause us to become “entangled?”**

We can skip Christian fellowship to pursue sports.

### *getting active*

## **Helping each other**

**What would you say to Matt in light of what we have read in the Bible today?**

**Is there anything that we must do differently in light of our study?**

## **LET'S pray**

Pray that we will engage in sports in a way that honors the Lord.

Pray that we will shine as Christians even in competition.

Pray that we will not become entangled in it and drop out of Christian fellowship.

## **STAY TUNED...**

Next week we will look at being a Christian and going to parties!

# LUKE: WORK REST play + LEADER'S NOTES: play part 2: THE CHRISTIAN AND PARTIES—HONOR JESUS WITH YOUR SOCIAL LIFE!

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 1 Corinthians 15:33

Dear Leader,

This study is designed to show your group that:

1. We must be careful of and avoid parties that contain unhelpful aspects.
2. We must live in a way that honors Jesus—everywhere, including at a party.
3. We must stay away from sinful desires that may surface at a party.
4. Heaven will be a place of great joy and happiness (like a good party)

*let's get started*

**Do you like going to parties?**

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 50 \_\_\_\_\_ 100  
Nope, give me a good book and a cup of tea      Sometimes      I'm the ultimate party animal

**Have you ever been to a party that was not helpful to your Christian faith and witness? Why was it unhelpful?**

**Penny loves to party**

Penny loves to be with people and have a great time. She is a solid Christian who truly wants to honor Jesus in all she does. However, she has lots of friends who are happy to party in a way that does not honor the Lord. She is torn: on one hand she wants to hang out with her friends, but on the other, she does not want to be around when it becomes a drunken mess.

**What would you say to Penny?**

**Can she party and still honor the Lord?**

**Be careful and put aside the “deeds of darkness”:** Read Romans 13: 11–14.

**Why is it important to live in a way that honors Jesus according to this passage?**

We are to live as if it were ‘daytime’ and Jesus is coming back soon.

**What do you think it means to “put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light?”**

**Can you give practical examples?**

Get rid of things that characterise a non-christian or your life before you became a christian. Things like stealing, drunkenness, fighting, lust, greed etc.

**What insight does this section from God’s word give us about unhelpful parties?**

We must stay away. They are ‘darkness’.

**What would happen if you told your friends that you would not go to a party because of drunkenness or sexual immorality? (Circle your answer)**

I’d be laughed out of town

My friends would think I was insane

They’d accept it even if they didn’t understand

They wouldn’t care

This is not an issue for me

Another response \_\_\_\_\_

**How should you respond to someone who criticizes or makes fun of you for not wanting to go to certain types of parties?**

Try not to give in to their pressure. Realise that what Jesus thinks is more important.

**Honoring Jesus at a party:** Read 1 Peter 2: 11–12.

**What do these verses tell us about how we should conduct ourselves at a party?**

We must see ourselves as people who don’t belong to this world (we are ‘aliens’). We must stay away from our desire to sin (drinking, getting together with someone from the opposite sex, drugs, etc).

**What does v. 12 mean for us practically—how can we live “a good life” at a party?**

Steer clear of unhelpful things. Try to shine for Jesus. Take opportunities to do good things, talk about God, explain why you don’t get drunk.

**What things should you do / not do?**

Drinking alcohol if you are underage, drugs, one night stands.

**What do you do if your friends (or the crowd) are getting out of control?**

Call your parents to get a ride home or simply leave.

### **What do you do if...**

*You have a Christian friend who wants to go to a party that you know will have alcohol/drugs/unhelpful behavior etc.?*

Talk with them. Warn them. Try to encourage them to go to some other activity (perhaps with you).

*You have a Christian friend who you see getting involved in bad stuff at a party?*

Try to look after them, speak with them privately. Speak with them a day or two later and explain why this was wrong behaviour.

(If you want more help from this great book read 1 Peter 4: 1-5.)

### **Heaven—the ultimate good time: Read Revelation 21: 1-8.**

**List as many good things as you can that this passage tells us about what awaits us:**

### **What would you say to someone who...**

*Is a Christian and feels like they are missing out because they can't go to unhelpful parties?*  
Explain that what they are 'missing out' on will ultimately harm them and dishonour Jesus.

*Says, "Being a Christian is boring?"*

Jesus gives us life and life to the full (John 10: 10).

*Says, "I want to go to hell and party with my friends?"*

Hell is a place of judgment with no relationships. The party will be in heaven.

(If you want to read another great passage on this subject read Revelation 22: 1-6.)

### *getting active*

### **Helping each other**

**What would you say to Penny in light of what we have read in the Bible today?**

**Is there anything that we must do differently in light of our study?**

### **Let's pray**

Pray that we will honor Jesus when we are at a party.

Pray that we will stay strong as Christians until we enjoy the ultimate celebration, eternal life.

Pray for our friends who party in a way that is wrong or unhelpful.

### **Stay Tuned...**

Next week we will look at busyness and the Christian life!

# LUKE: WORK REST PLAY + LEADER'S NOTES: BONUS STUDY: STAYING SPIRITUALLY STRONG IN A BUSY, BUSY WORLD.

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. Ecclesiastes 12:13

Dear Leader,

This study is designed to show your group that:

1. We must realize that God will judge us for everything we do. With this in mind, we must never 'forget' him.
2. We must deny ourselves and follow Jesus. This means our busyness must not get in the way of our following Jesus.
3. We must be careful of what this world offers. Being too busy may simply be one of the traps that will take us away from God.

*let's get started*

How would you characterize your life right now (in terms of "being busy")? (Place a mark on the appropriate place on the line.)

0 ----- 50 ----- 100  
 My life is peaceful, tranquil and calm                      I'm busy but doing fine                      My life is out of control

Someone is too busy if they... (Circle your answer / answers)

|                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| don't get enough sleep | lose contact with their friends    |
| have bad health        | stop going to church               |
| start going bald       | stop praying and reading the bible |
| don't take a day off   | Something else _____               |

## Nick is nuts

Nick is a busy guy. He always has a ton of homework, he's on the debating team, plays for two sporting teams (one for the school, one that is a local team), and is trying to learn to play the guitar. He also tries to be involved in his youth group. His motto is "get the most out of life." Nick finds that each day is filled to the brim with little time to rest or simply hang out. He is beginning to see that he may be trying to do too much and his life is too busy. His youth leader takes him aside and tells him "he is worried about him and thinks that he needs to slow down."

Do you agree with Nick's youth leader? Why / why not?

What would you say to Nick?

Do you know someone like Nick? Are you like him?

When does busy become "too busy?"

**Whatever you do, don't forget your creator: Read Ecclesiastes 12: 1 & 12: 13-14.**

**What does it mean to "remember your creator" when you are young?**

Live in a way that shows He is God of your life. Read about Him, meet with other believers.

**Can you give practical examples?**

**What are the reasons given to remember God? (v. 14)**

God will judge what we do.

**Why do you think the writer ends with this statement?**

Because it is the most important to remember – we will be judged.

**Have you ever know someone who forgot about God? What was the situation?**

**How can being too busy cause us to forget God?**

We get too preoccupied with other things and place our relationship with God to the side.

**Deny yourself. Don't lose your soul: Read Mark 8: 34-37**

**What does it mean to "deny ourselves" when it comes to being busy?**

Even when we have a lot of things to do we must honour God and give Him our time.

**How does someone "deny himself / herself" and still please their parents and teachers? Is this possible?**

It is, but it will take some work. We must be organised. Get our homework done (if the amount given is reasonable), do our household duties. We must also speak with our parents and explain to them that we want to be a Christian as well.

**Is there anything that you need to cut out of your life so that you can follow Jesus more closely?**

**Don't be like Demas who was once a follower of Jesus but left because he "loved the world."**

The apostle Paul had an associate named Demas. You can read about him (briefly) in Colossians 4: 14 & Philemon v. 24. **Read 2 Timothy 4: 9-10.**

**What does this tell us about Paul's former associate?**

He fell in love with the world. He left God to pursue worldly pleasures.

**Why do you think he left—can you come up with some reasons or things he may have been in search of?**

Money, sex, material possessions, gaining assets for the future, pleasure.

**What is the warning for us in the example of Demas?**

**Be careful of what this world offers—it is passing away. Read 1 John 2: 15–17.**

**What reasons are we given for “not loving the world?”**

Loving the world is a love that comes from sin and not from God. Plus, the world is passing away.

**What is the connection between “loving the world” and being busy?**

Our love for the world (gaining good grades, gathering material possessions etc) can cause us to do things other than enjoy Christian fellowship and pursue a life with Jesus.

**Give some practical examples of what it mean for us to not love the world.**

Don't be too concerned with gathering wealth. Be careful of the pursuit of top grades. Be careful with pursuing things that will keep us from reading our bible and going to church.

### *getting active*

#### **Helping each other**

Is there anything you would change about your advice to Nick in light of what we have read in the Bible today?

Do you feel that you need to be less busy?

Is there anything you must change in response to this Bible study?

How can we strike a balance between living a full life and not being too busy?

#### **LET'S pray**

Pray for our schedules—that we would strike the right balance, leading a full life but not being too busy.

Pray that we would never sacrifice our spiritual health for other things.

Pray that we would be prepared to make sacrifices in order to follow Jesus.

Pray for any friends who are struggling with busy schedules.

#### **STAY TUNED...**

Next week we will start a new Bible study series!