



A Guide to Wise Living

About the Series: Life's a maze with many challenges, distractions, and obstacles, and sometimes we take a wrong turn or make foolish choices. The Book of Proverbs gives us practical ways to live wisely so as not to have so many regrets in life and helps us live in such a way that we fully enjoy our lives as God intended.

Part 5

Shake Off the Lazy Funk

Proverbs 6:6-11, 13:4, 24:30-34, 26:13-16 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

DISCUSS

This current generation seems to be lazier and more unmotivated than the previous generations. This lazy attitude has affected how we live out our lives, with both practical and spiritual implications. From the book of Proverbs we can identify three reasons for laziness and three ways to overcome it.

Our laziness often comes from our excuses, lack of motivation, and feeling of sufficiency (v. 26:13-16)

- What is the reason given by the lazy person in verse 13 for refusing to go out and work? Is this reasoning justifiable? What are some reasons people give when they refuse to go out to work, attend church onsite, or simply don't do what they ought to do?
- What's the second reason why people are lazy in verses 14-15? Describe a person who is unmotivated from these two verses. What

did the apostle Paul say in 2 Thessalonians 3:10 to Christians who refused to work?

- How would you motivate a loved one or a friend who is unmotivated to do their responsibilities?
- What is the third reason why a person is lazy (v. 16)? How would you describe a lazy person who has a false feeling of sufficiency?
- As a person who is not considered lazy, how do you keep on improving yourself?

We overcome our excuses by understanding the personal consequences of inaction (v. 24:30-34)

- How do these verses picture a lazy man? What was the result of his laziness?
- What does the entitled generation of our time assume if they don't do things by themselves?
- What is the consequence of inaction in Proverbs 20:4?
- Are you personally obligated to help those who are simply lazy, family or not? Why or why not?
- For parents, how could you teach your children to learn the lesson of personal responsibility?
- What are the responsibilities that an "adulting" person should be able to do on their own?
- Spiritually, what would be the result if you are too lazy to share the gospel with your friends and family members?

We overcome a lack of motivation by recognizing the importance and urgency of doing it now (v. 6:6-8)

- Why was an ant given as an example of being industrious in these verses?
- What does a responsible person do when he recognizes the need for him to do something?
- Why is procrastination a bad thing?
- Share the first step you've taken towards spiritual maturity. How did it help you to overcome laziness in prioritizing God in your life?

We overcome a feeling of sufficiency by identifying and addressing our inadequacies (v. 13:4)

- Share examples of how you can overcome lazy thoughts by identifying and addressing your inadequacies.
- When you come face to face with the Lord, would you be able to tell Him that you have done your best to live for Him? How would you address today what you realize are areas of spiritual and character deficiencies, so that when you meet the Lord, He will be well pleased with the way you have lived your life?

REFLECT

God doesn't call you to be lazy and slothful. He has blessed you with talents and abilities, time and strength, resources and knowledge—all to be used to glorify Him and bless others. How are you using all these things He has given you in your life?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You for this reminder that it is Your will for me to be responsible, to work hard, and to be motivated to truly live out my life with purpose. May it come from a deep desire to glorify You, to live for Christ. May you help me make an impact on the people around me. May I have the desire to do well and be faithful to You all my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.