

Labor Day Lesson

“Let’s Talk About Work”

Scripture: Genesis 1-3 (various Scriptures)

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:23 “*And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.*”

Lesson Focus: We will take a break from Revelation and celebrate Labor Day by challenging the kids to rethink work. Most kids (and adults) don’t like work and see it as something to be avoided. But on this Labor Day weekend, we want to show the kids that work is a good thing given to us by God and that they can honor Him with hard work.

Activities and Crafts: Memory Verse Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Activity for all Grades: My Work Plan

Starter Activity: Job Charades

This is Labor Day weekend where we honor and recognize hard work and the contributions it has made to our nation. Consider getting the lesson started by playing a game of charades. We will provide you with several notecards that have various job descriptions on them. Below are some of the jobs that we will provide. Feel free to add your own!

Teacher, Doctor, Police Officer, Firefighter, Musician *
Janitor, Pastor, Pilot, Grocery Bagger, Garbage Collector

As you are going through each one, consider asking a couple of questions:

Q: How does the person doing this job help others?

Q: What would happen if nobody did this work?

Consider saving the “Garbage Collector” for last and then ask this question:

Q: Do you think God thinks collecting garbage is a gross or bad job? A: NO! While it might be stinky work, it is still good work that honors God and helps others (for what happens if no one does it?).

God actually has a lot to say about work in the Bible that might surprise you. Let’s take a look!

Bible Study:

Genesis 1:1: This is the very first verse of the entire Bible describing how it all began.

Q: What are some of the things that God created? A: The sun, stars, plants, animals, and most importantly you and me! (**Read Genesis 1:27**)

What is fascinating to me is that the very first thing God teaches us about Himself is that He is a **worker!** He **created** and **made** all of these things. God **worked!**

Sometimes we think work is a bad thing or something that we should avoid. * But if work is a bad thing, God certainly does not seem to think so! In fact, read **Genesis 1:31** to see what God thought of His work. *

Q: How did He describe what He did? **VERY GOOD!!!**

This means that work isn't bad, but can be very good and satisfying. (**Teachers:** Consider sharing a story of where you worked hard on something and just like God you looked at your finished work and you were very satisfied with it. Then consider asking kids to share a similar story)

Genesis 2:15: But work did not stop with God. After He created man in His own image and likeness, He placed Him in His perfect garden. This was God's paradise. But God placed Adam there for a purpose.

Q: What did God place Adam there to do? A: To tend and keep it: To **work!!** From the very beginning God created a world where not only He worked, but man whom He created was also to work! And it was ALL GOOD!

Some of you may be wondering why work can be so hard. Well, the Bible tells us!

Genesis 2:16-17: When God placed man in the garden, He gave him just one rule.

Q: What was that rule? A: To not eat the fruit of this one tree.

Q: But did they obey? A: NO! And because of their disobedience, God punished them severely.

Genesis 3:17-19: Because of Adam and Eve's sin, work suddenly became HARD. *

Q: What are some chores that you have to do that seem HARD? These verses help us understand why work can sometimes be HARD for we still live in the same fallen and broken world that has been twisted by sin.

Luke 19:10: Thankfully, Jesus came to rescue, restore, and redeem our broken world. Not only that, but Jesus had to **work** to accomplish these things.

Q: What **work** did He do that earned us our salvation? A: His perfect life and death on the cross! That was HARD WORK, don't you think? But it was GOOD! And He did it for you and for me, that we might be saved!

Key Point: We look forward to the day when Jesus returns and He will restore all things, even work to something that is only wonderful. While the Bible doesn't give us details on what we will be doing in heaven for all eternity, I suspect there will be wonderful, creative, and fulfilling work just like there was in the Garden of Eden. But until then, Christians are called to work on this earth for God's glory, as our memory verse (**Colossians 3:23**) says. As you are getting back into your schoolwork and your regular chores this year, remember that work is good and do it for Jesus!

Teachers: The main teaching section above is shorted so that you can have time with your kids to talk about work in a more interactive way. Below are some ideas for classroom time afterwards to talk some more about work.

- 1) Put these verses below up on the whiteboard and consider breaking your kids up into small groups and assign each group a verse and have them "work" to find them in their Bibles. Have them read the verse and then have some brief discussion on each:

Proverbs 14:23: In this world, hard work typically produces blessing.

Psalms 128:2: There is something really satisfying about enjoying food you worked hard for!

1 Corinthians 10:31: God cares about everything we do, even our work. He wants us to work hard for Him!

Ephesians 2:8-9: While we are to work hard, we are always saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

- 2) Have the kids sit in a circle facing each other and use a small ball or some other object to pass around to indicate who has the turn to talk. Whoever has the ball gets to tell the group what jobs or chores they have at home. Afterwards pass the ball to someone else in the group who gets to share. Talk about while those chores may be hard, why they are still good to do!
- 3) Similar to #2, continue passing the ball around, but have the kids share what they want to be when they grow up and why!
- 4) To help the kids have a better attitude about work, pass out some index cards that we will provide you with that they can write in something that they can "work on" at home this week. These index cards will say, "This week I will work hard on _____ to serve God and others. Have them sign it and point them out to their parents as they come for checkout.