



Wise Up! A series in Proverbs Work & Discipline

Date: Sunday 10th July

Speaker: Jon Solway (City Centre Site), Kathryn Thorp (South Site)

Key Verses: Proverbs 31, Proverbs 16:3, Matthew 11:28-30

Talk Summary:

Proverbs teaches plainly and wisely about work - but it also doesn't pull any punches! We looked at three points: Why work hard?, Just work hard?, and Jesus worked hard. Let's take a look at each of these points:

1. **Why Work Hard?** We are called to work hard for a few reasons:

- Firstly, in Proverbs 31, we see how hard work is beneficial for the individual, for their family and friends, and for the poor, the needy, and the wider community around them.
- Secondly, we were created to work hard: we are made in the image of God, and He is a hard working God (Genesis 1&2, John 5:17, Ephesians 3:20). He has designed us to work hard for His purposes (Ephesians 2:10).
- Thirdly, when we work hard, we reflect His character to others: like a child's mannerisms pointing to the parents, so our work points others to God
- Lastly, it prepares us for eternity. In Genesis, God created humanity to work on the earth and take care of it (Genesis 2:15). If we are diligent now, we will rule over creation again in eternity (Proverbs 12:24, Luke 16:10).

2. **Just Work Hard?**

- Jesus hasn't just called us to work hard, and toil through every waking moment. Instead, He invites us to Sabbath, and to working with Him.
- Sabbath keeps our relationship with God strong, and strengthens us for our work. Our work isn't just down to us, if we commit our work to the Lord (Proverbs 16:3).

3. **Jesus Worked hard!**

- Sometimes we feel that we need to work hard to earn God's love and be saved. But this is a lie and is impossible. We can never work hard enough to undo our mistakes and be accepted by God. Jesus came to do the hard work for us, we just need to accept Him.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- Think of a time when God has helped you in your work. Share it with the group.
- Think of a time when you have tried to work hard apart from God. Share it with the group.
- How does seeing God's hard work inspire you to work hard too?
- Is it just about output? Is it just about how hard we work, and how good our work is?
- How do you take a break, have a rest, and enjoy the gift of Sabbath?

Witness - *How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?*

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?
 - Upcoming Events (go to bvc.so/whats-on for details)
 - Encounter Night – 23rd July
 - Healing on the Streets Training – 23rd July