

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step

### Read 2 Corinthians 3:6-18

Members of the Thessalonian church were refusing to take responsibility. Some had quit working because they thought Jesus would be back any moment and didn't see any reason to exert themselves. Others relaxed because there were plenty of wealthier members in the church who were always willing to share. Paul was abhorred by such laziness.

- How does a person learn good work habits?
- How would you describe the problem the Thessalonian church was experiencing?
- Who was shirking responsibility in Thessalonica?
- What effect do you imagine this was having on the church and the community?
- In what ways do lazy Christians still continue to take advantage of the work of others? What are the effects?
- How did Paul make himself an example of the proper attitude toward work?
- What does Paul say they should have been doing?
- What example should a Christian set for others at a job or as a student?
- The Thessalonians used the second coming of Christ as an excuse not to work. What excuses do you use when it comes to work?
- Are there areas of improvement needed in your work habits? What could you do this week to begin to change?

### Read Proverbs 6:9-11; 10:4-5; 12:24; 13:4; 18:9; 19:15, 24; 24:30-34 and 26:13-16

The wise advice found in the book of Proverbs includes the warnings concerning the deadly sin of laziness (sloth).

- What are some of the ways that the writer of the proverbs describes sloth.
- Make a list below of the results of sloth according to these proverbs.
  
- Do you see that these results are accurate for our day? What results have you seen when it comes to laziness?
- What counsel would you give someone who is caught in this deadly sin.

### My Next Step Today Is To . . .

- Turn all of my life over to the care and will of God by receiving Jesus as my Savior and Lord.
- Ask God for diligence against sloth
- Combat my spiritual sloth by \_\_\_\_\_
- Meditate on and/or memorize Philippians 4:9

#### Talk It Over with God:

These prayer tips can guide your time alone with God each day. Praying with a friend or a small group might help you stick to it.

- Think about the ways that you use your time. Thank God that he intended for us to have seasons of rest each week and during extended times of the year.
- Ask God to show you ways that you might have moved beyond the healthy need for rest to the deadly sin of laziness.
- Spend time before God expressing thanks for the labor he has gifted you to do. If you've lost the sense of meaning in your labor ask Him for it to be renewed.