

PROVERBS BY THE DOZEN

Work



Go to the ant, O sluggard,
Observe her ways and be wise,
Which having no chief,
officer, or ruler,
Prepares her food in the
summer and gathers her
provision in the harvest.

Proverbs 6:6–8

Don't wait until someone tells you to do what needs to get done. If you know what to do, go ahead and do it.

*Some things need to be done ahead of time.
Don't wait until the last minute to start your work.*



*Don't go through the motions of working
without really accomplishing anything.
If the job isn't done, keep going!*

Hard work has its own good reward.

Poor is he who works
with a negligent hand,
but the hand
of the diligent
makes rich.

Proverbs 10:4



*Not all work can be done quickly.
Don't rush things.*

*Wait patiently for things that take time.
It is worth it.*

*A lazy man does not
roast his prey,
But the precious
possession of a man
is diligence.*

Proverbs 12:27



The soul of the sluggard
craves and gets nothing,
but the soul of the diligent
is made fat.

Proverbs 13:4

*Wishing for good things that other people have
without putting in the necessary work will never
leave you feeling satisfied.*

Consistency in a good habit pays off.



Don't refrain from undertaking an activity just because it will make a mess.

Don't be frustrated when someone else's hard work makes a mess.

Be willing to clean up the mess afterwards.

Where no oxen
are the manger
is clean,
but much revenue
comes by strength
of the ox.

Proverbs 14:4



In all labor
there is profit,
but mere talk
leads only to poverty.

Proverbs 14:23

For days that drag on with no motivation:

"There's always the laundry."

Doing a chore that needs to be done is beneficial regardless of whether you feel like doing it or not. It may feel more fun to plan and daydream, but taking even a small step forward is better than a discussion about what could happen.



A just balance
and scales
belong to the Lord,
All the weights
of the bag
are His concern.

Proverbs 16:11

Don't have one set of standards for friends and another standard for strangers.

Treat everyone with the same honest standard.

Don't scrimp or cut corners in your work.

Honesty, even in small things, matters to God.



A worker's appetite
works for him,
For his hunger
urges him on.

Proverbs 16:26

*You are more motivated to do your work when the
reward comes at the end and not at the beginning.*

*Deadlines are helpful to get a job done, even if it is
as simple as "before dinner time."*



*Quality work takes a lot of time.
Quality work gets noticed.
Do quality work.*

*Do you see a man
skilled in his work?
He will stand before kings;
He will not stand
before obscure men.*

Proverbs 22:29



**If you are slack
in the day
of distress,
your strength is
limited.**

Proverbs 24:10

***There are times when you have to rise to meet the
difficult situation in front of you, even when you
would rather not.
Ask the Lord for His strength and help.***



Prioritize.

Not everything on your “to do” list is of equal importance, and not all jobs can be done at once.

Do the most important things first.

Prepare your work
outside and make it
ready for yourself
in the field;
afterwards, then,
build your house.

Proverbs 24:27



Things fall apart with no effort at all!

People don't plan for things to fall apart, they just stop taking care of what needs to be done.

The easy way is not pretty.

I passed by the field of the sluggard...and behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles; its surface was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down.

...“A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,” then your poverty will come as a robber and your want like an armed man.

Proverbs 24:30-31, 33-34

How to Keep a Proverbs Notebook

The Book of Proverbs has 31 chapters and can be easily read by doing **one chapter each day**.

Whichever date it is, read that chapter of Proverbs.

Example: On the 5th of the month, read chapter 5. On the 23rd of the month, read chapter 23.

Do not try to “catch up” on chapters if you miss a day—just read that day’s chapter of Proverbs.

The simplest notebook is **to write your favorite verse** from the chapter. The next month when you read through, choose a different favorite verse. At the end of the year, you will have 12 verses written from each chapter.

Or, for more of a challenge, **look for different themes** each time you read through the book, and write the verses you find in your notebook. Here are some common themes:

- “My son...”
- Wisdom
- Money
- Friends
- Speaking
- Heart matters
- Women
- Fools
- Work

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