

## Journey Group Questions

**1. Review the study from Emerge. What are the areas of your life where you work wisely or foolishly?**

Lead the students to identify how they work and rest in life and then help them to apply the principles from Emerge to their life. Challenge them to see if they are doing the bare minimum, or striving for their best. Do they cram too many things into their schedules, or are they intentional in times of rest? Read Proverbs 22:29 & 31:27 as examples of wise work. Guide the students to apply each principle. The goal is for concrete application to be realized.

**2. Read Ephesians 2:10 and Matthew 5:16. Based on these passages, what is our motivation for doing good works? What can happen as a result of our works?**

Paul and Matthew record that the way we work has the capability of bringing glory to God, which God has planned for us to do. In Ephesians we find our value as God's masterpiece and are motivated to do good works because God has created us, saved us, and purposed us for Himself. In Matthew, Jesus says that we are the light of the world and we must "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven." The way we work and the content of our work can point others to our Father, God. This is a huge privilege which can have eternal implications for others.

**3. Proverbs indicates that the man who works through deception or by dishonorable means will find troubles, but the wise man will be blessed in his work. Read Colossians 3:23-24. How does this passage contradict the popular motivation of only working for the paycheck?**

In Colossians, Paul writes that our attitude about work should be in the context of serving the Lord. He is not writing this to a bunch of pastors, but to the whole church in Colossi. These people had jobs, they were students, parents, and employees. Regardless of their position, their attitude was to work in such a way that it pleases Jesus. Their motivation for doing their best was an attitude of worship directed toward Christ.

**4. There is a temptation for us to become consumed in doing things all the time to the point where we are always busy. What is the Biblical perspective on rest? How can rest help us to ultimately become more productive?**

Read Proverbs 19:23; 23:4; and Mark 2:27 God created us and knows what is best. We can be more productive in our work when we are more intentional to rest in the Lord. In our time of resting, we are renewed to work better than we could without stopping. We must learn to recognize that we are limited beings and must rest.

There's a story of a man who got a job with a timber merchant. The pay was very good, so he determined to work very hard. The first day, he cut down 18 trees; the next day, only 15. On the third day, he tried his hardest, but he only finished 10 trees. Day after day he tried harder and harder but he brought in less and less trees. He thought, "I must be losing my strength." The merchant asked out of concern, "When was the last time you sharpened your axe?" The man replied, "I don't have time to sharpen it. I have been very busy cutting down trees."

Share with the students how our times of rest from work can allow us to become more productive in our work.

**5. How is God glorified in our work? Is God glorified when we don't work?**

Remind students that our goal is to glorify God through our work and to rest in faith in God. In our culture, there is a tendency to either be lazy, or to become consumed in our work. Another myth is that our goal should be wealth, vacation, and eventual retirement, rather than working for the glory of God. Help the students distinguish between these ideas.

## Emergent Notes

### 1. The wise man works well.

- Hardworking – Proverbs 6:6-11
- Skillful – Proverbs 22:29
- Diligent – Proverbs 31:27

### 2. The wise man works honorably.

- Not Hastily – Proverbs 13:11
- Not Deceptively – Proverbs 11:18
- Not with Prejudice – Proverbs 22:16

### 3. The wise man rests well.

- Discern when you NEED rest. – Proverbs 23:4
- Rest in the Lord. – Proverbs 19:23
- Remember the Sabbath – Mark 2:27



CSM Journey Groups are every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 PM! Juniors and Seniors will meet at the Fullerton's home, 9th and 10th grade girls will meet at the Thompson's home, and all other groups will meet in the Hub. A meal costing \$3 is provided, but you must sign up for it each week by 4:30 PM on Tuesdays. You can sign up for the meal at [exit137.org/studentministry](http://exit137.org/studentministry).

