

Alley Rundown—January 17th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Ants Marching (Ant and Sluggard) • *Proverbs 6:6-8*

Today's Key Question: When have you had to work hard?

Today's Bottom Line: Work hard.

Monthly Memory Verse: *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much..."*
(Luke 16:10a NIV)

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

WORSHIP: What a Beautiful Name

Begin Rundown...

"By show of hands, who knows what a New Year's Resolution is? (*Pause for response.*) Awesome. Yeah, one of the most exciting things about going into a new year is setting goals for how you can better yourself or the world around you for the year to come. It's such a common practice that people have made LISTS of the most popular ones! Through our extensive research on Google, we have compiled a list of the top five New Year's Resolutions. Without any further ado, here's the assembled list."

SLIDE: Resolution #5

"Lots of people think that they played things too SAFE the previous year. This year they want to get out there and make the most of whatever situation comes their way! They want to get out and visit places and people!"

SLIDE: Resolution #4

"Maybe some feel like they spend all their time eating, sleeping, attending school, or mindlessly watching YouTube. A new year is a great time to try something new! Maybe there are people in this very room itching to learn to fold the perfect paper airplane, take gymnastics classes, or learn photography!"

SLIDE: Resolution #3

"Everybody knows that kids sometimes struggle to organize. Here's a tip: if you can't find your pet hamster because of all the dirty laundry on your floor, maybe the new year is the time to reexamine your cleanliness. But truth is adults also grapple with organizing!"

SLIDE: Resolution #2

"This one may be a little bit less of a problem for you, but with how much I eat during the Christmas season, come January, I'm looking into gym memberships. And that brings us to the number one resolution made on New Year's which is . . ."

SLIDE: Resolution #1

". . . exercise more! There is no better time to build muscle and endurance than at the beginning of the year! These are all admirable goals, right? We could all stand to clean up a little better, get more exercise, or try new things!"

"There's something else true about New Year's resolutions. See, while millions of Americans set New Year's Resolutions each year, not all of those people follow through on their resolutions. What do you think? What percentage of people actually finish the year having completed their New Year's Resolutions? Does anybody want to take a guess?"

Call on a few kids to hear their guesses.

“Great guesses. Some of you might be surprised to learn that VERY FEW people actually stick to these resolutions! Statistics show that only EIGHT PERCENT of people follow through on the goals they set for themselves for the new year! In other words, out of every 100 people, only eight people actually achieve their goal! Which begs the question: why is it that SO MANY people start off with these great plans, but so few of them actually succeed?”

“The reasons people stop working toward their New Year’s Resolutions are endless. But all the specific reasons can be summarized in just three words. IT’S HARD WORK. To accomplish anything worthwhile, one must work hard. For so many of us, we lose momentum . . . lose motivation . . . lose the goal because it is difficult to achieve. You know what else is hard? Following God! To love God and love other people in a way that honors Him is tough! However, God knew this was true. Thankfully, the writers of the Bible were inspired to write down several ideas related to working hard, including the verses we’ll explore today. Let’s take a look at this week’s Episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 11:00)

“King Solomon recognized ants make up their own minds to work hard. They are not motivated by an allowance or extra screen time. Their hard work pays off with food reserves for times of shortage. Ants do whatever it takes to keep their colony safe! And you know what’s crazy? They know how to get the job done with only about 250 thousand brain cells.”

“But you are different than an ant. God made us with about 10 million brain cells! It’s plain to see God has given us what we need to work strong, smart, and creatively. Because He’s given much, God expects more of us. But fear not! In this room, we have people who are uniquely wired to accomplish unique goals. Kids in this room are determined and incredibly gifted to do God’s work! The people in this room were made in God’s image! When we combine what we’ve been given with hard work, we can show love to God and to the people God’s made!”

“Working hard might look like mowing extra yards to support a friend in the hospital. Sometimes that might look like waking up and straightening your room before your mom asks. It can even look like helping your little sister put together that massive LEGO® palace.”

“All we have to do for inspiration is look to Jesus. When He came to earth, Jesus knew exactly what He needed to do. He lived a perfect life, performed miracles, taught lots of people, and died on a cross for you and me.”

“Laziness is easy. Working hard is not. Taking the initiative to get the work done instead of waiting for someone to tell you to do something requires effort! It’s important to remember God gives us what we need to follow through.”

“The Bible is full of insightful truths that sometimes use ants as illustrations. God uses these truths to transform our lives. As you head to your Small Groups, we want you to consider a question.”

SLIDE: Key Question

“**When have you had to work hard?** Think about the times in your life when you had to give everything it took to finish a project at school or a task at home. How did it feel to accomplish those things? And how do you think knowing that you can work hard can help you in the future? Those are big questions. You’ll have chance to talk more about all of those with your Small Group. Before you head out though, let’s pray and ask God to help us work hard.”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard, then lead the All Together Activities using the attached sheet.