

Theme

God wants us to work hard.

Object

An inflatable pool toy, Sunglasses without lenses, An old towel with a huge hole in it, A Bible

Scripture

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

I'm thinking about going to the pool today! (Hold up the deflated pool toy.) I'm bringing this pool toy. The only thing is, it doesn't inflate. Do you think that's a problem? (Show how floppy it is not inflated.) This toy has two jobs. One is to be fun in the water and two is to help me float. Hmm. Do you think it's worth bringing? (Pause for kids to respond and explain their responses.)

When it's not inflated, the pool toy won't do its job. It's useless. So I guess there's no point in bringing it. Say, can I get your advice about a couple other things I was going to bring? (Show the towel and sunglasses.)

I thought I'd need a towel to dry off with and some sunglasses to protect my eyes. What do you think, are these things useful? (Pause for responses.)

I think I need to get some new stuff for the pool. I don't have a useful toy, I'm going to be cold and wet without a useful towel, and my sunglasses aren't going to shade my eyes at all.

(Show the Bible.) This reminds me of something in the Bible. A man named Paul wrote a letter to some of Jesus' followers called the Thessalonians. We can find his letter in the Bible, and it tells us that God wants us to be useful. Think about it this way. My job with you is to plan great lessons and fun games and activities, but if I didn't work hard, kind of like the deflated pool toy, broken sunglasses, and torn towel, I wouldn't be very good at my job and I wouldn't be helping you.

Ask kids:

What difference does it make to you if I work hard at my job?

What's something you work hard at to help others?

God wants me to work hard, and not just at church. God wants all of us to work hard at whatever we do—even kids.

Ask kids:

Tell about a time you didn't work hard at something.

Explain whether you think it makes a difference to work hard at everything we do.

When we work hard, we help others. It isn't always easy to work hard, and sometimes we can be lazy. But God wants us to work hard. We help our families keep our homes running when we work hard. Listen to this.

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12: "We hear that some people in your group refuse to work. They do nothing. And they busy themselves in other people's lives. We command those people to work quietly and earn their own food. In the Lord Jesus Christ we beg them to do this."

Wow! This is pretty serious! God says that we do our work quietly—that means without complaining or arguing. Let's remember not to complain or argue this week when we work at home to help our families.

The Bible says, "Brothers and sisters, never become tired of doing good."

Let's use this verse as our prayer today.

for responses.)

Prayer of the Day:

God, please help us never become tired of doing good. In Jesus' name, amen.

Parable of the Workers Coloring Page



We Work Hard Crossword

We Work Hard

Across: →

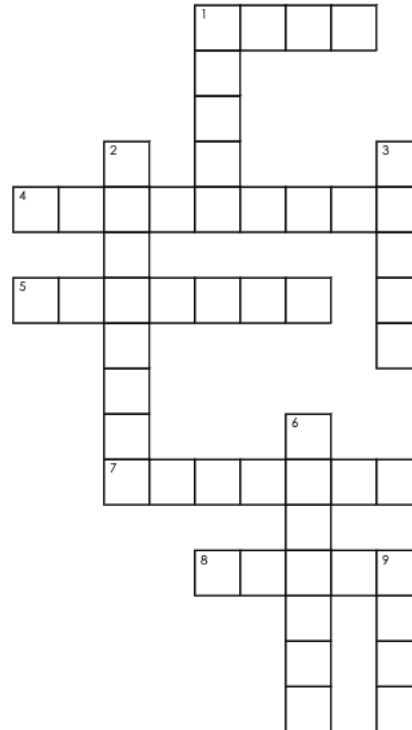
- 1. A way to talk to God
- 4. To keep going on even when it's hard
- 5. Your _____ have consequences
- 7. What you call siblings who are girls
- 8. To believe in something you can't see

Down: ↓

- 1. Calmness, no fighting
- 2. What you call siblings who are boys
- 3. The opposite of "Always"
- 6. To have faith that something is true
- 9. The opposite of easy

Word Bank:

BELIEVE	BROTHERS	PEACE
PERSEVERE	SISTERS	ACTIONS
FAITH NEVER	HARD	PRAY



Sunday School Crafts Activities: ““Work with Your Hands, Serve with Your Heart”



Objective:

To help children or students understand that God wants us to work diligently, help others, and not give up on doing good.

Materials Needed:

- Construction paper (different colors)
- Scissors ✂
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons
- Small paper cutouts of hands (or trace and cut their own hands)
- Stickers (optional)
- Printed or written verse: “Never tire of doing what is good.”

Instructions:

1. **Start with the Message:**

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6–13 together and discuss what it means to *work hard* and *not be idle*.

Ask: “What are some good things we can do to help others?” (Examples: cleaning up, helping a friend, doing homework, praying, etc.)

2. **Create Helping Hands:**

Have each student trace both of their hands on construction paper and cut them out.

3. **Write Good Deeds:**

On each hand, have them write or draw something good they can do to help others or show responsibility.

Example:

- "Help clean the house"
 - "Share with my friends"
 - "Do my homework on time"
 - "Pray for others"
4. **Assemble the Craft:**
- Glue the two hands on a background sheet of paper shaped like a heart, sun, or circle.
 - Above or below, glue or write the verse:
"Never tire of doing what is good." — 2 Thessalonians 3:13
5. **Decorate:**
Add stickers, drawings, or borders to make it colorful.

 Discussion & Reflection:

After finishing the craft, discuss:

- Why is it important to work hard?
- How can we avoid being idle?
- How does doing good help others and please God?

Lesson from the crafts activity:

"We were not idle when we were with you... but worked night and day... so that we would not be a burden to any of you."

— 2 Thessalonians 3:7–8

"Never tire of doing what is good."

— 2 Thessalonians 3:13