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# Discovery

*Scripture & Science for Kids*





# Working For God

For many people, work is a part of everyday life. They get up, go to work (or school), come back home, go to sleep, and do it all over again the next day. It is the cycle of life. But did you know that from the beginning of Creation, God has always had a job for humans?

In Genesis 2:15, “God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it.” God made the garden so Adam would have a place to work. However, aside from God’s direct command to tend to the garden, it seems that working is a part of God’s nature, and humans can reflect His nature when they work actively and diligently (Proverbs 6:6-11). Despite the perfection of God’s creation, when Adam and Eve broke the rules, the curse turned work from a pleasant task into a hardship of pain and suffering.

The New Testament also talks about working. Beginning in the gospel accounts, “work” and “worker” are used to describe the ministry of the Gospel. In the book of John, Jesus referred to Himself as doing the work of God (4:34), the work of healing (5:17), and the work of redemption (17:4). Paul also used such phrases as “worked very hard in the Lord” (Romans 16:12) and a “worker” to refer to Timothy, whose work consisted of correctly teaching the Truth.

Today, we should want to follow in Paul’s and Timothy’s footsteps, working diligently for the Lord. Colossians 3:23-24 says that “whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” Both the Old Testament and New Testament teach that work brings a sense of joy, satisfaction, dignity, and respect. God’s people are not only to put forth their best efforts to accomplish their tasks, but are also called upon to maintain the highest moral standards as they carry out their daily jobs.

Whether you are at school or doing your chores around the house, do your best—work hard!



In the Bible, we read about a group of people who wanted something very badly. The Israelites wanted to be free. They were forced to be slaves in the land of Egypt. God heard their prayers, and sent Moses and Aaron to bring them out of Egypt. The Israelites were very happy to be free. But their freedom was not as easy as they thought it would be. After God freed the Israelites, they began to murmur and complain against God and Moses.

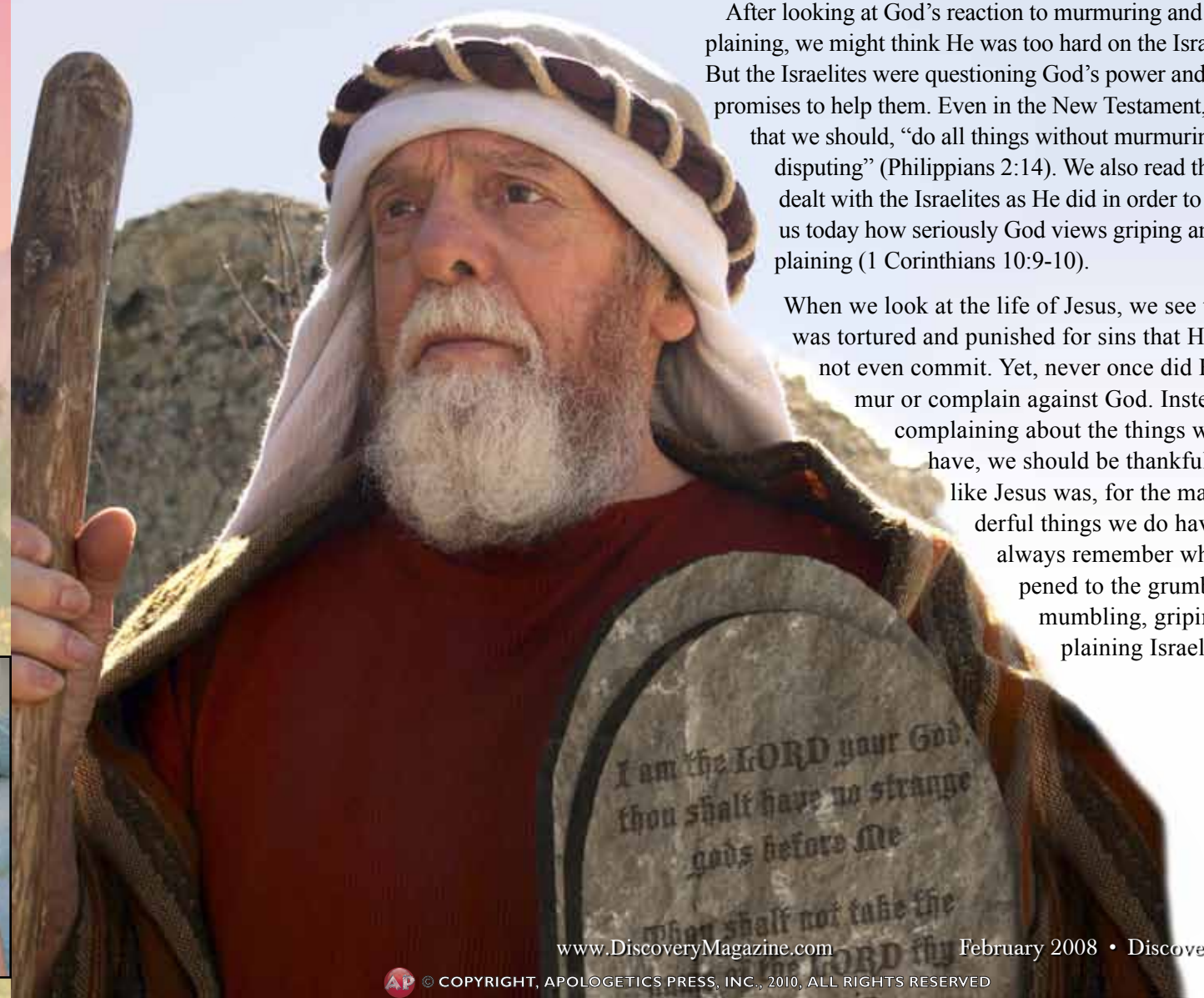
In Exodus 16, we read that the Israelites started to get hungry. They began to complain, saying that they wished God had let them die in Egypt—at least they had food as Pharaoh’s slaves. God heard their cries, and gave them a special food called manna. God gave them this bread from

heaven for forty years while they lived in the wilderness. But after a while, the Israelites got tired of eating manna. They whined, “Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt...but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!” (Numbers 11:4-5).

On another occasion, the children of Israel spoke against God and Moses, blaming them for setting them free from Egypt. “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?,” cried the people (Numbers 21:5). They kept mumbling and complaining, so God sent poisonous snakes among the people that bit them and killed many of them.

After looking at God’s reaction to murmuring and complaining, we might think He was too hard on the Israelites. But the Israelites were questioning God’s power and His promises to help them. Even in the New Testament, we read that we should, “do all things without murmuring and disputing” (Philippians 2:14). We also read that God dealt with the Israelites as He did in order to show us today how seriously God views griping and complaining (1 Corinthians 10:9-10).

When we look at the life of Jesus, we see that He was tortured and punished for sins that He did not even commit. Yet, never once did He murmur or complain against God. Instead of complaining about the things we do not have, we should be thankful to God, like Jesus was, for the many wonderful things we do have. And always remember what happened to the grumbling, mumbling, griping, complaining Israelites.







Chocolate cake tastes great. There is just something about a moist piece of chocolate cake with creamy chocolate icing on top. Do you like chocolate cake? Do you like it better than broccoli, squash, or green beans? What if your parents let you choose anything you wanted to eat anytime you wanted? Would you eat cake or candy all the time?

What would happen if a person ate cake or candy all the time? That person would get sick. He would not get the vitamins and minerals needed for strong bones and healthy skin. He would get very weak and would not be able to run and play. A diet of chocolate cake all the time would do terrible harm to a person.

Now, let's think about how we spend our time. Is it fun to get on the computer, play video games, read fun books, play basketball outside, or watch movies and TV? Sure it is. All these things are fun, and they can all be very good. But what would happen if you did too much of any of them? What would happen if you watched TV all the time? You would most likely do badly in school because you would be watch-

ing TV instead of doing your homework. Your body would lose muscle because you were not exercising, and your mind would not be sharp and clear to think about good things. Watching TV is not wrong, but spending too much time watching TV, without doing other good things, is.

In Ephesians 5:16, Paul wrote: "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." To walk circumspectly means to be careful about how you spend your valuable time. This verse tells us that we should make sure to do important things like read the Bible, help other people, pray, and work hard for the Lord. Those who use all their time on other things are foolish, while the wise understand that time is short and there is much work to be done.

There are many good, fun things to do in this life. But we must remember that time is very valuable, and we need to make sure that we are "getting our work done" at home, at school, and for the Lord.



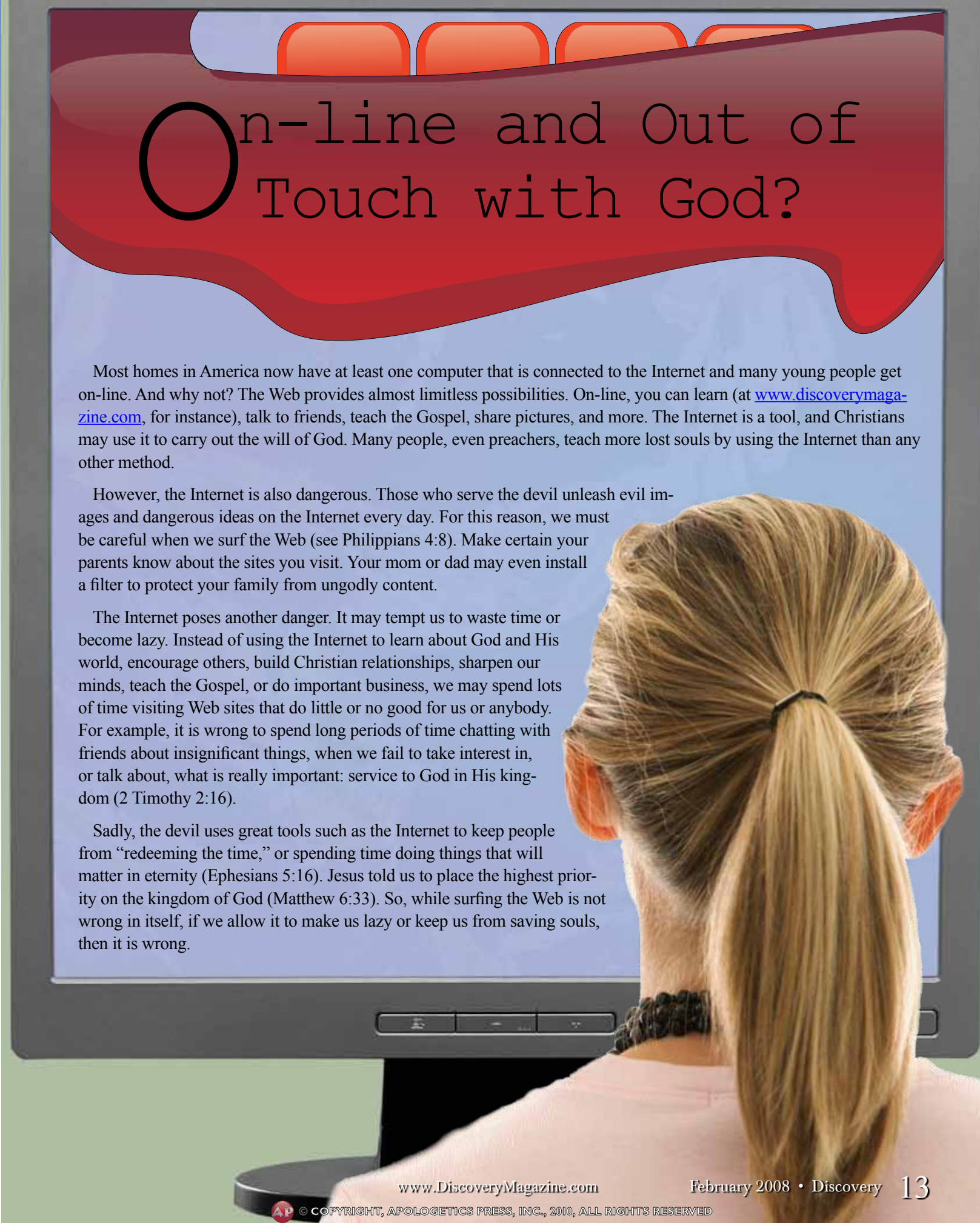
## On-line and Out of Touch with God?

Most homes in America now have at least one computer that is connected to the Internet and many young people get on-line. And why not? The Web provides almost limitless possibilities. On-line, you can learn (at [www.discoverymagazine.com](http://www.discoverymagazine.com), for instance), talk to friends, teach the Gospel, share pictures, and more. The Internet is a tool, and Christians may use it to carry out the will of God. Many people, even preachers, teach more lost souls by using the Internet than any other method.

However, the Internet is also dangerous. Those who serve the devil unleash evil images and dangerous ideas on the Internet every day. For this reason, we must be careful when we surf the Web (see Philippians 4:8). Make certain your parents know about the sites you visit. Your mom or dad may even install a filter to protect your family from ungodly content.

The Internet poses another danger. It may tempt us to waste time or become lazy. Instead of using the Internet to learn about God and His world, encourage others, build Christian relationships, sharpen our minds, teach the Gospel, or do important business, we may spend lots of time visiting Web sites that do little or no good for us or anybody. For example, it is wrong to spend long periods of time chatting with friends about insignificant things, when we fail to take interest in, or talk about, what is really important: service to God in His kingdom (2 Timothy 2:16).

Sadly, the devil uses great tools such as the Internet to keep people from "redeeming the time," or spending time doing things that will matter in eternity (Ephesians 5:16). Jesus told us to place the highest priority on the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). So, while surfing the Web is not wrong in itself, if we allow it to make us lazy or keep us from saving souls, then it is wrong.





# ACTIVITY PAGES



## FILL IN THE BIBLE VERSES

1. "WHATEVER YOU DO, DO IT \_\_\_\_\_, AS TO THE LORD AND NOT TO MEN" (COLOSSIANS 3:23).
2. "FAITH BY ITSELF, IF IT DOES NOT HAVE WORKS, IS \_\_\_\_\_" (JAMES 2:17).
3. "THEREFORE, MY BELOVED BRETHREN, BE STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE, ALWAYS ABUNDING IN THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE LORD, KNOWING THAT YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD" (1 CORINTHIANS 15:58).
4. "SEE THEN THAT YOU WALK \_\_\_\_\_, NOT AS FOOLS BUT AS WISE, REDEEMING THE \_\_\_\_\_, BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL" (EPHESIANS 5:16).
5. "LET HIM WHO STOLE STEAL NO LONGER, BUT RATHER LET HIM \_\_\_\_\_ WORKING WITH HIS HANDS WHAT IS GOOD, THAT HE MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE HIM THAT HAS NEED" (EPHESIANS 4:28).

1. Grumbling and \_\_\_\_\_ caused God to send poisonous snakes among the Israelites.
2. We make our faith complete through \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Jesus told us to place the highest priority on the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Israelites complained about the \_\_\_\_\_ God gave them to eat.
5. The Israelites were once slaves in \_\_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ never complained against His Father.
7. Adam was put in the garden to "\_\_\_\_\_ and keep it."
8. To walk circumspectly means to be careful about how you spend your valuable \_\_\_\_\_.

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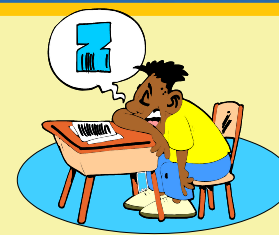
## SOLVE, FIND, AND CIRCLE

Dear Digger Doug,

What are some things I can do not to be bored?

Dear reader,

That is a great question. There are thousands of good ways to spend your time. Ephesians 4:28 reads: "Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him that has need." You could find some way to work with your hands to help others or to earn money. You could ask your mom what she needs done in the kitchen or around the yard. This would make her job a lot easier. Or you could find something else to do, like reading your Bible or a good book. Reading the Bible is fun! You can read about evil kings, mighty soldiers, beautiful queens, and many other exciting things. James 1:27 says, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." If there is a widow down the street, you could go visit her, and offer to cut her grass, invite her to church, or do odd jobs for her around the house. She will appreciate it more than you know. If she is not a Christian, your thoughtful service may influence her to obey the Gospel. Jesus was known for His good works (Acts 10:38), and Christians must be busy doing good like Jesus. As you can see, there is much to do. So look for ways you can serve, or pick up your Bible and meditate upon its words. Either way, you will never be bored.



## TRUE OR FALSE

1.  WORK IS NEVER FUN, AND THERE IS NO WAY TO MAKE IT FUN.
2.  WE MUST WORK FOR GOD.
3.  GOD WANTS US TO WASTE TIME.
4.  PAUL WROTE THAT WE SHOULD ALWAYS DO OUR BEST WHILE WORKING.
5.  GOD HAS ALWAYS INTENDED FOR MAN TO WORK.
6.  GOD'S KINGDOM IS MADE UP OF WORKERS, NOT COMPLAINERS.
7.  GOD DOESN'T MIND WHEN WE GRUMBLE OR COMPLAIN.
8.  FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST IS A WORK.
9.  THE BIBLE TELLS US TO OBEY OUR PARENTS, WHICH INCLUDES DOING OUR CHORES.
10.  CHRISTIANS SHOULD NOT SPEND THEIR TIME STUDYING GOD'S WORD.



## ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER

1. WRITE DOWN THINGS YOU CAN CUT OUT OF YOUR DAY/WEEK IN ORDER TO NOT WASTE SO MUCH TIME.
2. WHAT ARE FIVE GOOD WORKS THAT YOU CAN DO?





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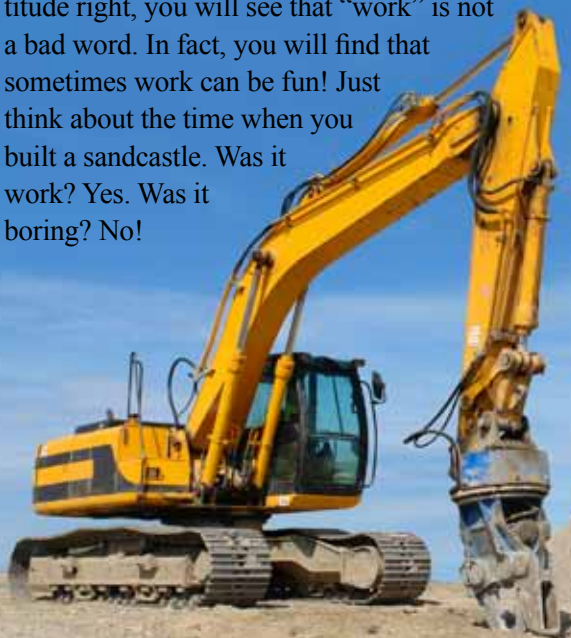
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# GET TO WORK!

## WORK FOR THE LORD

When you hear the word “play,” what comes to your mind? “Fun” is one word that comes to mind. Now, when you hear the word “work,” what comes to your mind? You might think of the words “boring” or “do I have to?” Is work really that boring? Is it that hard for you to clean your room, take out the trash, and do the chores your parents tell you to do? Once you get your attitude right, you will see that “work” is not a bad word. In fact, you will find that sometimes work can be fun! Just think about the time when you built a sandcastle. Was it work? Yes. Was it boring? No!



What is the work that we are to do? Jesus tells us: “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent” (John 6:29). Faith in Jesus Christ is a work. It is a work that requires studying God’s Word, and doing what it says. Faith must be shown through works. “Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (James 2:17). We make our faith complete through works.

The work we do on this Earth is most often for someone else’s benefit—and that is how things should be. Doctors work to improve the health of others. Farmers grow food for others to eat. Authors write for others to read. We should be glad to work, because we know that what we do helps others (Luke 6:31). When your alarm clock rings in the morning, put both feet on the floor and get ready for whatever the day has in store for you, because you were put here on Earth so that you could do God’s work.

God will reward us one day according to our works (Matthew 16:27). “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).



# ANSWERS

FILL IN THE BIBLE VERSES: 1. heartily; 2. dead; 3. work; labor; 4. circumstances; time; 5. labor; SOLVE, FIND, AND CIRCLE: 1. complaint; 2. works; 3. God; 4. manna; 5. Egypt; 6. Jesus; 7. tend; 8. time; TRUE OR FALSE: 1-F; 2-T; 3-F; 4-T; 5-T; 6-T; 7-F; 8-T; 9-T; 10-F.

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