

Diligence

1. Review Diligence Definition (“Fill in the blanks with me.”)

- **Note: You may want to read the definition again to the family before you “fill in the blanks”.**
- “Seeing each (job) as a special (mission) from the (Lord) and using all my (strength) to complete it.”

2. Family Bible Story: Nehemiah 2:11-20, 4:1-9 (Rebuilding the Wall of Jerusalem)



- Open with prayer. Ask the Lord to open our heart and spiritual eyes to see new things.
- Ask this question: “Who in the Bible led God’s people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem after they were held captive in Persia?”
- Sword Drill Nehemiah 2:9
- Give a little background: “**God’s people were held captive in Persia. Nehemiah was the king’s cupbearer in Persia. The king gave permission to Nehemiah to take God’s people back to their homeland, Israel. Nehemiah challenges the people to arise and, by families, rebuild the shattered walls of their beloved city, Jerusalem.**”
- Read Nehemiah 2:9-20, 4:1-9
- Point out:
 - 1.) God’s job for Nehemiah was to lead God’s people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and lead them back to loving God.
 - 2.) Two men (Sanballat and Tobiah) were against it, but Nehemiah was still **diligent**.
 - 3.) Nehemiah secretly went out at night to inspect the walls and gates to see how much work was needed to be done.
 - 4.) Nehemiah challenged the people to work together as families to build back the wall of the city.
 - 5.) Even though their enemies mocked them, God’s people were **diligent** to work night and day to rebuild the walls. Some worked while others stood guard.
 - 6.) God’s people had to work with diligence to rebuild the walls of their city.
 - 7.) Even if we are mocked (made fun of), we must be **diligent** to complete the job God has for me and my family.
 - 8.) Even if our enemies rise up against us, we must remain **diligent** to complete our responsibility and rise up against them in the name and power of the Lord (4:13-15).

3. Diligence in Neighborhood

- **Note: This section can be used in a separate Family Devotional time.**
- Read Proverbs 24:30-34 together
- As you walk or drive through your neighborhood, look for signs of **diligence**. (Be sure to point out that there could be reasons other than laziness for a yard in poor shape.) Here are a few examples:
 - 1.) Yards neatly trimmed.
 - 2.) Flower beds with no weeds.
 - 3.) Paper and trash picked up and placed in the proper containers.
 - 4.) A shiny, clean car or truck.
 - 5.) A man painting his house or washing his windows.



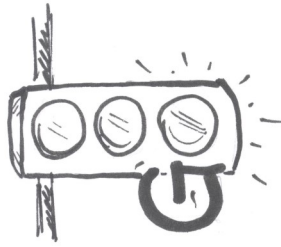
4. Memory Verse for the Week: Proverbs 6:6 (See Memory Sheet)

- To be memorized and quoted in one week. (Feel free to be flexible with your time to memorize. You may want to require the verse be memorized in less time.)

5. Other optional items to add.

- Sing a couple of choruses or songs.
- Spend time coloring the Memory Sheet and post it in a prominent place.
- Project: Demonstrate diligence by completing a project which you started, or helping a needy neighbor with their yard work.

PROVERBS 6:6



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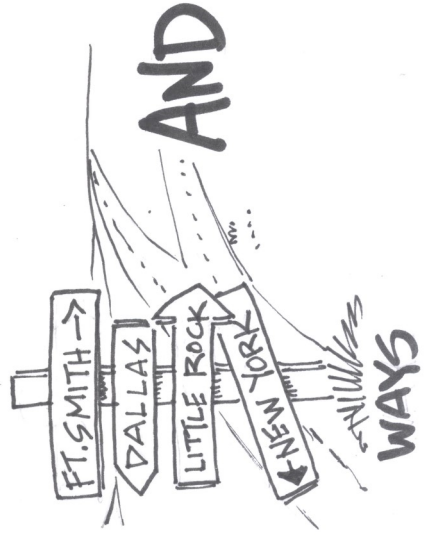
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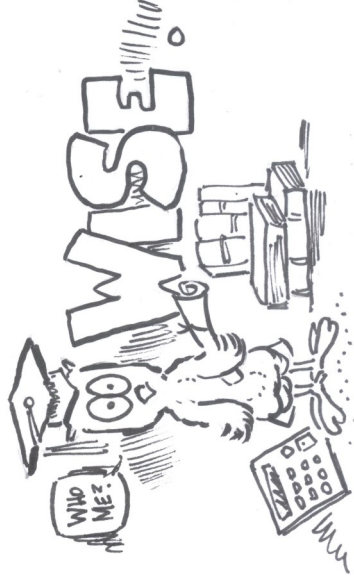
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AND



WISE!