

# PREACHING CURRICULUM

## 2 Thessalonians 3

*If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.*

### 1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

**Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5.** What are Paul's specific prayer requests in these verses? When was the last time you prayed for any of these things?

**Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18.** According to Paul, what are we supposed to do when a fellow Christian is lazy and refuses to work to support themselves?

**See verse 10.** Why would it be an expression of love to withhold food and other basic support from someone who refuses to work for their own living? Wouldn't that be rather harsh? How would you respond to this objection?

**See verse 12.** What does it mean to "do your own work quietly"? What would it look like to do the opposite?

Why is it so important for us to maintain a good work ethic? What benefits and blessings do we enjoy when we do so? Conversely, why is the sin of idleness such a big deal? What negative consequences result when we give into a lifestyle of laziness? Compare and contrast these two ways of living.

### 2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

How is your work ethic? How much do you value hard work in your daily life? Also, how well do you work "quietly"? Are you generally content as you are carrying out your daily work, or are you prone to be a complainer? If so, why?

How does the biblical work ethic compare and contrast with modern secular approaches and attitudes to work?

### 3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

How does the biblical work ethic address the person who is fully capable of working and yet feels entitled to "live off the system" or freeload off of others? Conversely, what does the Bible say to someone who is prone to be a workaholic?

What implications does the biblical teaching on work have for our employment? Our parenting? Our domestic affairs? Our charitable giving? Our family relationships? Our relationships with other Christians? Can and should this teaching be applied on a societal, governmental, or political level? If so, how?

### 4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

What would it look like for you to embody the biblical work ethic in your own daily life this week?