



# Talk it Over

PASTOR DAVID — PROVERBS — THE THIEF, LAZY, WORKER AND POOR — 2/22-2/23

## KEY SCRIPTURE

### **Proverbs**

**11:1** - 'The Lord detests the use of dishonest scales, but he delights in accurate weights.'

**21:6** - 'Wealth created by a lying tongue is a vanishing mist and a deadly trap.'

**6:9-11** - 'But you, lazybones, how long will you sleep? When will you wake up? A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.'

**24:30-34** - 'I walked by the field of a lazy person, the vineyard of one with no common sense. I saw that it was overgrown with nettles. It was covered with weeds, and its walls were broken down. Then, as I looked and thought about it, I learned this lesson: A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.'

**16:8** - 'Better to have little, with godliness, than to be rich and dishonest.'

**14:31** - 'Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but helping the poor honors him.'

**19:17** - 'If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord-and he will repay you!'

## START TALKING

We canceled the service last week because of the snow.

**How did you make out? What is your strategy when you know there is a big snowstorm coming?**

## START DISCUSSING

### **STEALING IN THE WORKPLACE**

Read 11:1 and 21:6. By naming the scale, Proverbs connects stealing to the workplace. Dishonesty can manifest itself in so many ways, from employee to employer, advertising to billing, we can find outright lies to "stretching the truth."

**Have you experienced dishonesty in business or the workplace? What some of the ways we can be dishonest if we are not careful? How do we avoid this?**

### **LAZINESS VS. HARD WORK**

Read 6:9-11 and 24:30-34. Laziness and hard work are constantly compared throughout Proverbs. Laziness leads to ruin, hard work leads to prosperity. The remedy for laziness is simply to start working hard.

**Have you struggled with laziness? Do you have a story to share of learning this lesson?**

Principles of planning were discussed as a strategy toward diligence/hard work.

**What are ways that you keep on top of life? Do you have any strategies to share?**

**How have the seasons of life forced you to change your strategy?**

**What advice would you give your younger self?**

### **BEING POOR**

Read 16:8. Poverty and godliness are not mutually exclusive. Many of God's people live in poverty. Poverty can be the result of choices made, misfortune or exploitation. But one thing is clear in Proverbs, we are supposed to help people who are poor. Read 14:31; 19:17.

**What are ways we can help someone struggling in poverty?**

**How many ways can you name besides giving money?**

There is always a concern about enabling when we help. However, this can easily become a roadblock to helping someone who needs help.

**What do you think of the statement, "Err on the side of mercy."?**

**Discuss ways we can help someone and still be careful to not cause harm. How do children in the home make a difference?**

In the end Proverbs makes it very clear that the poor need to be help, and in our helping them God will repay. 19:17

**Discuss what this means? What can we expect when we help others?**

