

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part 7: Sloth & Diligence

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ICEBREAKER: What images pop up when you think of the word 'sloth?'

1) Sloth is not just laziness or leisure, but much more than that.

Latin word for sloth is *acedia*, which means apathy or 'I don't care.' The virtue of sloth is diligence. The word 'diligence' in Latin is translated as "to have empathy, esteem, respect or love for someone else. Diligence in its purest form is primarily an expression not of industriousness or hard work, but a function of love and esteem and respect. Therefore, the working definition of sloth for us is: **"Sloth is choosing not to care about the things God cares about; a failure to love Him and others."** 

What do you think this means? Explain.

**2)** <u>Read Luke 10:27 and Matthew 25: 14-46 (NIV).</u> How do these passages relate with one another and how does this relate with sloth and diligence?</u>

**3)** In the love of God – have there been any loving of God that I have neglected to do? Are there areas where I have become spiritually lazy? In the love of other people – have there been any loving of people that I have neglected to do? Are there areas where I have become relationally lazy?

4) What are the symptoms of sloth? And in turn, what are the solutions for sloth?

**5)** The 7 Vices and Virtues are listed below. Which one do you struggle and relate with the most? What next steps can you take to overcome these sins in your life? Pray for each other and keep each other accountable.

Pride & Humility Greed & Generosity Lust & Purity Gluttony & Temperance Wrath & Patience Envy & Gratitude Sloth & Diligence