

PROVERBS

Week 3: Sloth

Primary Passage(s): Proverbs 24:30-34, Proverbs 26:13-16

Related Passages: Genesis 1:26, Proverbs 13:4 and 21:25-26, Philippians 4:10-13

"It is a mistake to think that sloth is laziness. More than indolence (or apathy) sloth rejects the burden of order, choosing instead the breezy lightness of freedom. Loving self more than relation, and autonomy more than the good, in sloth one rejects the weight and density of living in an ordered creation. In sloth we abhor what is there. We abhor what is. We abhor limits and place and order and being. Our misguided addiction to freedom without truth is a revolt of the self against any charged world which might demand attention, care, obligation, or respect. And certainly against any mandate of working to fill God's beautiful kingdom. They are seen as insufferable demands. As illegitimate restrictions on our unbridled freedom. And so we find ourself hating the place God has provided, the work God has given to us, and the proper ways of laboring."

- RJ Snell

Lifegroup Study Guide

Recap: Have someone from your Lifegroup read Proverbs 24:30-34 and Proverbs 26:12-16 and recap the highlights from this week's sermon.

- The passages describe a sluggard as someone whose fields are overgrown, doesn't want to get out of bed, or doesn't finish the work he starts. Which of these stood out to you?

Read Genesis 1:26. Because we're created as God's image-bearers, slothfulness isn't just laziness, but a rejection of God's purpose for us to relate to Him, relate to others and intentionally cultivate dominion over our lives.

- In which of these arenas are you putting forth healthy effort? Where do you need to repent and grow?

Read Proverbs 13:4. Where are you consuming as an attempt to fill up your boredom? Does the phrase "consuming without contentment" ring true to you? What can we do as a LifeGroup to fight our mindless consumption and encourage each other to pursue God's purposes?

Pray that our church family would earnestly seek to repent of the ways that we have rejected our God-given purposes.

Pray that our Lifegroup would continue to be led by the Spirit to be on mission together in the ways that God has already called us to be.