

# Get to Work

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## Introduction:

- Intro/Who I am/Role
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Can we all just stop and give each other a hi5 really quick? Seriously, now, do it. If nobody is next to yourself, give yourself a hi5. WHY? Because Deer Season starts in a week AND College Football BACK!!! YEAH BABY!!!

When I first came here 10 years ago, we had just recently launched into doing Multi-Site ministry. I had no idea what I was doing (still don't..be encouraged, your kids are in great hands)

We were just hoping someone would show up to our student gathering during the week. I think we had like 50 students (which was amazing) saw 4 get baptized, and took a mission trip with 8 students to NYC. And now, 10 years later, we had 700 students in middle and high school SMALL GROUPS, saw 158 students get baptized last year alone, and had something like 130 of them go on mission somewhere. That's crazy town.

And on top of that, in our Kids Ministry.....

I'm glad I get a front row seat to it, and that my kids get to grow up here and call this church "their family."

Speaking of kids, I have 3. Boy, girl, Boy.

- **Holt** is your typical first born. All rules. (Airplane)
- **Annie**, she's my girl. Don't mess with daddy's girl. Kill you with bare hands.
- **Parks**: Parks is the type of kid that runs around the house buck naked and doing hip thrusts screaming something wildly inappropriate. We all have kids like that right?????!

Story: Parks flinging turds..... kids running, etc..

It was the feces on his fingers that was keeping people away from him. It was something that everyone saw (and smelt) except for Parks.

**Today, I want to propose that many of us suffer from something that we often cannot see in its entirety in ourselves, but trust me, our spouse/friends/parents..they see it and smell it: AN UNDISCIPLINED LIFE.**

Proverbs says "The stain of indiscipline in adulthood is like a turd in the hands of a youth." ( I made that up. That's a joke.)

But Proverbs does give us a lot of instruction and rebuke to those of us that find ourselves neck deep in indiscipline. Listen to a few of these:

"The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor." Proverbs 21:25

“The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions.” Proverbs 12:27

“To all my lazy ones, you had better be your own trumpeter, because no one else can find any good in you to praise.” – Charles Spurgeon

Everyone close your eyes for a second... Think back to high school....(I know some of you have worked hard to forget these years...get over it for a second.) You ready?

**GROUP PROJECTS.** By a show of hands, How many of you hated them?

How many of you loved them? Keep your hands up. Okay, now, everyone across all of our campuses look at those right now with their hands up. You know why these people loved them? Because ya'll did all the work for them

Those of us with our hands up now, we were loathed and despised by our peers. We were, let's just call it, dead weight.

We all have different images that we think of when we think of the slacker or the sluggard.

For most of us, we think of the young guy in his late 20's/30's, without a job, moved back in with mom, no shot at getting married anytime soon, tweets about things all the time and is making a solid run binge watching all seasons of Friday Night Lights in one sitting. (Clear eyes, full hearts.....

But he's not a sluggard because he is watching a show on Netflix in his mom's basement. He's a sluggard because he is watching shows on Netflix in his mom's basement when he should be doing something else at that moment.

***The sluggard is someone who does something, no matter how good, at the expense of doing what is most important.***

God says, “At this moment you are called to \_\_\_\_\_” The sluggard says, “I'd much rather \_\_\_\_\_, and here are the very wise and logical reasons why.”

I joked about the Netflix thing, but really...how many of you have sat down to watch “One show.” We know that watching the one show is awesome, fun, and a gift from God. But what happens next? That's right, the infamous “next episode starts in 10 seconds” box in the bottom right.

It's in that moment you debate. Yeah....why not. When you know the better thing might be to get your butt in bed and get some rest you're now 9 episodes in to FRIENDS (because your wife made you, right guys...)

**Today, I would like to explore three areas of our lives where I believe we could use some encouragement to awaken the sluggard in us all and step into a disciplined life for the glory of Jesus. A.) In our work B.) In our Parenting, C.) In our Holiness.**

**Let's get after it.**

## **1. We need discipline in our work.**

MOST OF US THINK THAT IT WOULD BE AWESOME IF WE COULD JUST STOP WORKING. If I can make millions, I could stop going to work in my 30's or 40's, then live my dream.

The problem with that is that it creates in us a restlessness. I mean, let's just break this down for a minute (sweetie, if you're listening, I don't really mean this...it's just a sermon illustration.)

you are at home for an extended time of vacation. You've done all you can do after a few days. Sure, there's more that can be done, but now you sit. And wait. And unless my kids want to keep their faces from being punted across the living room, all of a sudden, work ain't sounding so bad after all 😊 And your spouse is ready for you TO GO. Because you're totally messing up all the normal routines they've worked so hard to establish. You're literally destroying everything.

Now, Imagine 20 years of that. Not sounding so great, is it?

## **YOU WERE CREATED TO WORK! <sup>1</sup>**

When God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden, he didn't just tell him to keep away from certain bad apples. God placed Adam in the garden and told him to **"to work it and keep it"** (Gen. 2:15).

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<sup>1</sup> These two points were joyfully borrowed from "What Makes Work Christian by J.D. Greear

Remember that God said this *before* sin enters the world. That's important to know because it shows us that work is not God smiting his people for their rebellion, it's his original design. You are like, yeah bro, I hear you, but you've never sat at my cubicle and worked where I work. I hear you, but hear me out.

The first purpose God had in mind for Adam wasn't to pray, go to youth camp, and fellowship suppers. (All great things I might add). His first task? To make babies and be good farmer. *And all the rednecks said "AMEN!"*

Adam was placed in the garden to create, to tend, and to grow.

Think about some jobs like this: Contractors wood and sand and concrete and use them to create buildings. Artists take color fling it on a canvas. Middle infielders take a routine groundball and turn it into a dance of beauty by turning a 4-6-3 double play!

God answers the prayer of "Give us this day, our daily bread..." through PEOPLE!

What this means is that God is active through a person's work to ensure that families are fed, that homes are built, and that double plays make ESPN's Top 10 highlight reel. Too many Christians despise our work and worship our leisure. **We were created for WORK!**

### **YOU WERE CREATED TO WORK WITH EXCELLENCE:**

If our work is done “for Christ,” it should be done with excellence.

Paul says, “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Col. 3:17).

You know what that means? Stop doing crummy work. I hate it when my kids come home and take 3 mins on homework. “I’m done.....YEAH. STINKING. RIGHT.” You may have finished, but it wasn’t done well.

“The one who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.” Proverbs 18:9

When we do a lackluster job in our work, we run from what we were created to do and we destroy our testimony to the world.

Now I total get that having a bad work environment can make people lose the motivation to work with excellence. “After all,” they may think, “what is the point of working hard? No one will notice either way, and even if they do, I certainly won’t get the credit for it.” *Fair. But God doesn’t call us to fair. He expects more.*

Christians ought to pursue excellence in their work not because they want to impress their boss or because they

getting that raise this year. We see how that turned out for Clark Griswold, and it wasn’t pretty. We do it because Jesus deserves it.

C. S. Lewis once noted how valleys undiscovered by human eyes are still filled with beautiful flowers. Who did God create that beauty for, if no human eyes would ever see it? Lewis’ answer was that God does some things only for his own pleasure. He sees even when no one else does.

For many of us, this is a new lens we’re working from here. That means that for the Christian, we no longer require the approval of others in our work, because we no longer work for the approval of others. **Jesus is everything we need for everlasting joy. So let’s give him our best.**

### **2. We need discipline in our parenting.**

The goal of Christian parenting is defined quite clearly in the Scriptures.

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Prov. 22:6

**Solomon says it well, and so does Jesus.**

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:18-20a

Make Disciples: Isn't that the "missions verse." Yep. And our home is our first mission field.

**If we're going to be a church that is serious about the nations, we have to be a church that is serious about the mission field down the hallways of our homes.**

**The problem is that we are full of Distractions.**

I think it's important before I jump into this part to make a serious note: There has never been a time in our history where distractions were not prevalent. The only difference is that we used to have to go looking for them, now they just interrupt us during our dinners, our drive to work, when we put the kids to bed, and even as we're sitting in church right now wondering when this guy is going to shut up so you can go home and watch the game, or your checking the updates to your game, or if you're really bored, you're looking at the weather.

You know how I know that? I've sat right there in the same seat you're in and done the same thing (Sorry, J.D. ☺ )

Our phones, the **rectangle of doom** is what I like to call it, has changed everything about us.

Sherry Turkle in her book "Reclaiming Conversation, the Power of Talk in a Digital Age" lays the hammer on us in regards to how our smart phones have changed our culture.

Think about it this way: Have you ever been sitting in the chair, reading a book to your kids, and you're trying your best

to shut off from the day. But in the midst of your precious child sitting on your lap, or the teenager in your home you've been begging to talk with you finally starts to open up....and then in that moment your phone "pings" with a text message, or an email, or a tweet, or a reply...and you've literally pushed your kid around trying to get to your phone or told your teenager to "hold on a minute" while you reply. We're neglecting our own flesh and blood for the digital world.

**The problem is more rampant that we think.**

Then on top of that, we're losing the ability to show proper emotion with someone. Have you ever been sent something via text, and you replied back with this (insert massive crying laughing emoji here please to show audience). But....you actually weren't laughing? You thought it was funny in your mind, you sent the emoji over, but you actually never laughed. Research is showing that it's deadening our ability to relate well with others.

THEN on top of that, studies have shown that the mere presence of a phone produces less talk (in quantity) and less talk (in quality). A phone at the table, (on the table) face down has proven that people are unwilling to go deeper in conversation than they desire because at any time they could be "interrupted." (I believe the study shows that adults look at their smart phones ever 4.2 minutes.)

How do we IMPRESS the gospel upon our children, train them up in the way they should go, if we can't **sit** with our kids

giving our full attention, **communicate** deeply with them, and **show** proper emotion with them when the time calls for it.

We are forsaking our first mission field in the home to and allowed our wandering hearts to be led down an empty path full of distractions...and we don't even know we're distracted!

**"if we showed the same initiative that we have in our job to our family, we'd be seeing world changers created in our homes."** JDG

If, in the workplace, we encountered such a problem and we didn't tackle it head on, we'd get fired. It's time to tackle this problem.

- **EVALUATE your rhythms.**
  - We tend to evaluate everything in life except for our family life.
  - We evaluate in the workplace.
  - We evaluate athletes on the field of play
- **Why do we evaluate? Because evaluation brings correction.**
  - By the way, you want really good, godly evaluation....get plugged into a Small Group! Nobody will help you see the things you can't see like a small group. They're the ones telling you that you have a boogie in your nose when you can't see it.
- **Start the conversation at home about ridding yourselves of your phones during a certain time frame.**

- **Buy a box, drop your phone in it, and commit to not touching it during the few hours you have with them**

I don't know what your solution is, but be intentional about finding one.

### **3. We need discipline in our holiness**

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight."** Prov. 3:5-6

Not sure if you caught this or not. But Solomon tells us that the wise and righteous man is the one that leans on God for all things...and then gives a path. Question: What do you do with a path? Marvel at it? Admire its beauty? No. You walk on it.

Listen to me very carefully.....People do not drift towards holiness.

If we think "holiness will happen" out of thin air, we've got a few misconceptions about walking in a fallen world.

You see, you have an enemy that wants to destroy, and he's active. You have to, as Jonathan Owens said "Make War" against sin in your life. When we make WAR against sin, we are disciplining ourselves for holiness.

**"So then, dear friends, since we have these promises, let us cleanse ourselves from every impurity of the flesh and**

spirit, bringing holiness to completion<sup>[a]</sup> in the fear of God.” 2 Cor. 7:1 CSB

Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate towards Godly Disciplines. We drift more towards disobedience and label it “freedom in Christ.”

[ Some of us really need to lean in on this part. We think that just because Jesus worked on our behalf to save us that we have NO WORK TO DO in our holiness. Can I just be honest here for a second: You’re a fool if you’ve bought into that lie. ]

As a Christian, if we are not moving the ball down the field, we’re not growing in our holiness. Plain and simple. There is no if, and’s or buts. Quit crying about your imperfections. Quit whining about your lack of resources and time, and GET TO WORK walking with Jesus. That’s what discipleship is guys. Discipleship (a very Jewish way of learning, by the way) is action. It’s movement. It’s following the ways of the teacher. You can’t do that from your couch. It takes hard work.

**Listen to the words of the apostle Paul in Philippians.  
(Remember, Paul was QB1, big dawg)**

Listen to what else he says in 1 Corinthians 15.

“By the grace of God I am what I am. . . . I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.” 1 Corinthians 15:10,

God’s grace didn’t make Paul passive...he said that God’s grace supplied the means for discipline and effort, and every ounce of energy expended was all of grace.

**Grace and effort are friends...not foes. Grace is the gas, effort is the vehicle.**

The most liberating words of the Christian were spoken at the cross when Jesus said “It is finished.” That’s the heart of the gospel, my friends. You can’t work for your salvation. It was done for you in Christ at the cross and in the resurrection. Believe it. Trust In him. And then Paul shouts amen to that and now says “Get to work.” Belief propels actions.

**Fill up your tank and get moving down the road.**

**PRAY**