

# Sermon Discussion Guide

## *Idleness*

2 Thessalonians 3:6–15

### Reject idleness (6–11)

Prov. 6:6–11; 24:30–34; 1 Cor. 6:19–20; 2 Cor. 5:15; Phil. 2:3–11

Paul called upon the Thessalonians to reject idleness because idle living is contrary both to his teaching and to his own example of working diligently in order not to burden others.

- In the sermon, Ryan described idleness as more than simply being lazy. It involves neglecting the responsibilities God has given you in the different areas of your life.
- In which areas of your life are you tempted toward idleness?
- In what ways is your idleness an expression of either seeking to be your own Lord (e.g. not using your time and resources the way God commands you to in his Word) or a self-centered disregard for the needs and interests of others (i.e. burdening others by not fulfilling your responsibilities)?

### Embrace work (12–13)

Gen. 2:15; 3:17–19; Col. 3:23–24

Paul commanded the idlers to begin working hard to provide for themselves. He also encouraged those in the church who were working hard and helping others not to be discouraged by the way others were shirking their responsibilities.

- The Bible views work as more than what you do for a paycheck. It includes the many roles and responsibilities God has given you in every area of life.
- How does understanding that you were created by God to work and that work is his good gift change the way you think about work?
- Do you seek to work as unto the Lord? How might viewing work as a way to serve and glorify God help you find greater purpose and satisfaction in your work?

### Discipline the disobedient (6, 14–15)

Matt. 18:15–20; 1 Cor. 5:1–13

Paul instructed the congregation to discipline any members who continued to disobey his authoritative teaching.

- Do you struggle with the idea of church discipline? Why?
- What should be the motivation for exercising church discipline?
- How is discipline an expression of love for both Christ and the person under discipline?