PASTOR OVERVIEW

Work While It Is Day

21 resources • Scripture focus: John 9:1-7

THE SHARED BIG IDEA

God calls believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us.

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE • John 9:4 (KJV)

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

ONE MESSAGE FOR EVERY AGE

Adults and youth: memorize the full verse above. Every resource carries the shared big idea; school-age children use this wording: We can obey God and do the good He gives us to do today.

Children (grades 4–6): “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day”
Children (grades 1–3): “I must work the works of him that sent me”

Pre-K big idea: Jesus helps people. I can help, too.

Pre-K memory words: “while it is day”

Children’s selections are excerpts from John 9:4 (KJV). Read the full passage together; practice the assigned words throughout the week.

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HOW TO USE

Give each leader the relevant guide. Reinforce the same big idea and memory verse in groups, children’s ministry, and at home. Page numbers above refer to this complete PDF.

PRE-K TEACHING GUIDE • AGES 3–5

Work While It Is Day

Jesus helps a man see • John 9:1-7

BIG IDEA

Jesus helps people. I can help, too.

MEMORY WORDS

“while it is day” — John 9:4 (KJV, selected words)

PREPARE THE LEADER

Jesus redirected the disciples from blaming the man or his parents to seeing God’s work. The healing shows what Jesus can do. Helping with everyday tasks is our response to Jesus’ example; children are not being asked to perform a healing.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Jesus met a man who had been blind since birth. Jesus was doing the work His Father sent Him to do. He put mud on the man’s eyes and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. The man washed and came back able to see.

POINT, ANSWER, AND RESPOND

Who helped the man? Invite children to point to Jesus in the story picture. What is one thing we can help with today?

PLAY AND PRACTICE

Place large soft blocks beside a basket. Invite children to put them away together. Offer a seated role or let a child point to the next block. Say: We can help today!

SAY THE MEMORY WORDS

Make a sun with your arms while saying the memory words. Explain: Jesus did God’s work while He had the opportunity. We can do good today.

ART AND PRAYER

Offer the simple coloring page or blank paper with chunky crayons. Accept scribbles, gestures, and adult-scribed words. Pray: Jesus, thank You for helping people. Help us do good today. Amen.

Use the colorful service plan, story pictures, and take-home art page immediately following this guide. Give one direction at a time; adapt timing and participation to each child.

PRE-K · SERVICE PLAN

Work While It Is Day

BIG IDEA
Jesus helps people.
I can help, too.

BIBLE STORY
Jesus helps a man see
John 9:1–7

MEMORY WORDS
“while it is day”
John 9:4

SAMPLE 60-MINUTE FLOW

10 min	Welcome & choice play
5 min	Sing & move
5 min	Picture Bible story
5 min	Verse words & motions
5 min	Helping game
15 min	Art & play choices
5 min	Story review & prayer
10 min	Play & parent pickup

Flexible timing: shorten a group activity when children need a change.

PLAY • HELP TOGETHER



Place large soft blocks on the floor. Invite children to put them in a basket together. Say: We can help today! Offer a pointing or seated helping role.

CREATE • HELPING HANDS



Offer chunky crayons, blank paper, and the coloring sheet. Children may draw, scribble, or ask an adult to trace a hand. Ask: How can your hands help?

REMEMBER • SAY & MOVE



While it is day: make a big sun with your arms. Say the short Bible words slowly. Jesus was doing God’s work. We can follow Him by helping today.

Children may join with words, gestures, or pointing.

TEACH WITH CARE

Show one story picture at a time. Give one simple direction at a time. Offer a quiet place and seated movement options. Celebrate participation, not perfect coloring or recitation.

PRAY TOGETHER

Jesus, thank You for helping people. Help us do good today. Amen.

PREP: Bible • story pictures • large soft blocks • basket • chunky crayons • paper

PRE-K · STORY PICTURES

SEE THE STORY

Jesus helps a man see • John 9:1–7

Leader: show one picture at a time. Read the short retelling below each picture.

1 JESUS SEES A MAN

Jesus met a man who had been blind since birth. Jesus cared about him.



2 JESUS TELLS HIM TO WASH

Jesus put mud on the man's eyes and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam.



3 THE MAN CAN SEE

The man washed and came back able to see. Jesus had helped him!



POINT & SAY: Point to Jesus. Who helped the man?

SAY TOGETHER: Jesus helps people. I can help, too.

A simple retelling for an adult to read aloud.

I CAN HELP TODAY!

Color, scribble, or draw. Choose your own colors!



"while it is day"
John 9:4

Draw a way you can help.

TAKE THE BIG IDEA HOME

Jesus helps people. I can help, too.

Ask: Who helped the man?
Try: Put away toys together.
Pray: Jesus, help us do good today.

Name (adult writes):

_____

KIDS GUIDE GRADES 1 TO 3

Work While It Is Day

Going deeper from the message

John 9:1–7 ·

Carry the message into your week with this practical companion resource.

BIG IDEA

We can obey God and do the good He gives us to do today.

MEMORY VERSE EXCERPT · JOHN 9:4 · KJV

“I must work the works of him that sent me” (Excerpt from the weekly memory verse.)

LEADER PREPARATION

Plan for a 20 to 25 minute lesson. Have a Bible, paper, and crayons ready. Read the passage in advance and explain unfamiliar words simply.

BIBLE PASSAGE

Read John 9:1–7 together, paying special attention to verse 4.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus meets a man born blind. Instead of blaming the man or his parents, He points to the works of God and heals him. Jesus speaks of the urgency of His Father’s mission. We apply that urgency by using today’s opportunities to obey and serve.

ONE TRUTH TO REMEMBER

Jesus did the Father’s work, and we can take a faithful step with the opportunities God gives today.

OPENING QUESTION

What is one kind thing you can do for someone today?

HANDS ON ACTIVITY

Fold paper into two parts. Draw someone you can help on one side and a kind action on the other. Connect the activity to Jesus’ compassion for the man, then choose an action you can practice today.

TALK ABOUT THE STORY

1. What question did the disciples ask?

2. What did Jesus do for the man?

3. What good step can you take today?

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE

Choose one helpful or obedient step you have delayed and begin it today. Ask a parent or caregiver to help you follow through.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your compassion. Help us listen to Your Word, use today wisely, and serve with love. Amen.

LEADER CARE

Invite participation without requiring children to share private family burdens. Support children who need help reading or writing.

KIDS GUIDE GRADES 4 TO 6

Work While It Is Day

Going deeper from the message

John 9:4 · Scripture quotations KJV ·

For children, families, and teachers. Read, talk, and practice one way to follow Jesus this week.

BIG IDEA

We can obey God and do the good He gives us to do today.

MEMORY VERSE EXCERPT · JOHN 9:4 · KJV

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day” (Excerpt from the weekly memory verse.)

1. Main Bible Truth

God calls believers to stop putting off what He has asked them to do. We must seek His kingdom first, work faithfully while we still have time, and stay focused on the assignment He has given us.

2. Scripture Engagement Activity

Read it, mark it, and talk about it

Have the students read John 9:4 aloud together two times.

Then ask them to do three things on the verse:

- Circle the words “must work”
- Underline the words “while it is day”
- Box the words “the night cometh”

After that, ask:

- What does the word “must” tell us about how important the Father’s work was to Jesus?
- Why would Jesus say “must” instead of “might”?
- What do you think Jesus means by “day” and “night”?

Jesus says this before He heals the man born blind. He knows His work matters and that opportunities do not last forever. We can follow Him by using today to love, help, and obey.

3. Explanation of Key Words

- Work: doing what God gives us to do—loving people, telling the truth, helping, and obeying Him.
- Procrastination — Putting off something important until later, even when you know you should do it now.

- Urgency — Knowing something matters and should be done right away.
- Faithful — Doing what God told you to do, even when nobody is clapping for you.
- Kingdom — God's rule, God's way, and God's work in the world.
- Meditate — To think deeply on God's Word, pray over it, and let it shape your heart.
- Commit — To place something in God's hands and let Him direct it.
- Established — Made firm, steady, and sure.
- Distraction — Anything that pulls your attention away from what matters most.
- Press: keep trusting Jesus when something is hard. Ask a trusted adult for help, and remember that rest can help us be ready to serve.

4. Real-Life Examples

Here are some ways this sermon truth shows up in real life:

- Schoolwork: You know your project is due Friday, but you keep saying, "I'll do it later." Then Friday comes, and you are stressed, rushed, and sloppy. Wisdom says, do it while you have time.
- Chores at home: Your parent asks you to clean your room, but you keep playing games, watching videos, or scrolling on a device. Later, the room is still messy and now everybody is frustrated.
- Friends: You know you need to apologize to a friend, but you keep waiting because you do not want to feel uncomfortable. Meanwhile, the problem gets bigger.
- Honesty: You told a small lie and meant to fix it later, but later never came. The longer you wait, the harder it gets to tell the truth.
- At your church: With your parent's or teacher's permission, welcome another child, help put away supplies, or encourage someone who feels left out.

message was clear: don't be busy doing nothing. Some things feel important, but they are not the first thing. Wisdom knows what comes first.

5. Discussion Questions

1. In John 9:4, why do you think Jesus said "I must work" instead of just "I want to work"?
2. What are some things kids your age put off that should probably be done right away?
3. said, *"Excellence is not about perfection. It's about faithfulness."* What does that mean in real life?
4. How can a person be busy at church or busy at home and still not be doing what matters most?
5. What is one distraction in your life that tries to take first place over God?
6. The sermon said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." What does that look like for a 4th, 5th, or 6th grader this week?

6. Application Challenge

This week, choose one way to put God's Word into practice. Tell a parent, caregiver, or your church teacher what you chose and ask them to help you follow through.

This week, each student should choose one responsibility they have been putting off and finish it with excellence.

Examples:

- Finish homework without arguing or delaying.
- Clean your room the first time your parent asks.
- Apologize to someone you hurt.
- Read one Bible passage and pray over it for three days in a row.
- Do one act of service at home without being reminded.
- Put your phone, game, or screen away and spend 10 minutes with God first.

Tell them to say this sentence before they start:

"Lord, I will do what You gave me to do while it is day."

Then challenge them to ask:

- What do I need to stop delaying?
- What does faithfulness look like here?
- What would it look like to do this unto the Lord and not unto people?

7. Memory Verse

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day" — John 9:4 (KJV, excerpt)

Creative memorization method: "Repeat, Clap, and Point"

- Say the excerpt together once.
- Clap on the words must, work, and day.
- Point upward when you say him that sent me.
- Point to the clock or pretend to look outside when you say while it is day.

Do it 3 times slowly, then 3 times faster.

8. Prayer

Short Prayer They Can Pray:

God, help me do what is right today, not later. Help me work hard for You, keep my mind on You, and finish the assignment You gave me. Amen.

MY NEXT FAITHFUL STEP

One action I will take:

LEADER OVERVIEW • GRADES 1–3

Work While It Is Day

BIG IDEA
We can obey God and do the good He gives us to do today.

READ TOGETHER:
John 9:1–7

MEMORY VERSE
"I must work the works of him that sent me"
John 9:4

YOUR 60-MINUTE SERVICE

5 min	Welcome & check-in
5 min	Worship & prayer
8 min	Game: Do Good Today
12 min	Bible lesson & flashlight illustration
5 min	Memory verse motions
15 min	Sunshine craft & coloring
10 min	Share, pray & parent pickup



GAME • DO GOOD TODAY

Supplies: three picture cards showing helping, sharing, and encouraging.

Show a card. Children act out a kind response together. Ask: **How could you do this today?** Everyone participates; no one is out.



ILLUSTRATION • A LIGHT FOR TODAY

Switch on a flashlight and shine it on an open Bible. Light helps us see our next step. Read John 9:4 and explain: Jesus did the Father's work. We can follow Him by obeying today.



CRAFT • MY DO-GOOD SUNSHINE

Give each child a paper circle and six pre-cut rays. Draw or write one way to help on each ray. Glue the rays around the circle. Choose one action to do today.

PREP: Bible • flashlight • picture cards • paper circles and rays • glue sticks • crayons • coloring sheets

I CAN HELP TODAY!

Work While It Is Day



"I must work the works of him that sent me"
John 9:4

One way I can help today: _____

Name: _____

YOUTH SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Work While It Is Day

Going deeper from the message

John 9:4 · Scripture quotations KJV ·

For students and youth leaders. Connect the message to school, home, friendships, and everyday choices.

BIG IDEA

God calls believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us.

MEMORY VERSE • JOHN 9:4 • KJV

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

Suggested use: 60 minutes—opening and Scripture (10), teaching and selected questions (30), personal response (15), prayer (5). Choose the questions most useful to your group.

Main Scripture Text: John 9:4 (KJV)

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTION FOR TEENAGERS

What is one thing you keep putting off right now, even though you know you should deal with it?

FOLLOW-UP QUESTION

Why do you think it is so easy to delay the things that matter most?

SCRIPTURE READING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read John 9:1-5 out loud together.

2. Then read Colossians 3:23-24, Matthew 6:33, and Proverbs 16:3.

3. As you read, listen for:

- What Jesus says about time
- What kind of work He is talking about
- What should come first in a believer’s life

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT IN STUDENT-FRIENDLY LANGUAGE

Before healing the man born blind, Jesus answers His disciples’ question about sin and suffering (John 9:1–7). He rejects their attempt to assign blame and points to the works of God. His words in verse 4 express the urgency of the Father’s mission; the healing follows in verses 6–7.

In John 9, day and night describe the opportunity and urgency of Jesus’ mission. applies that urgency to our limited earthly lives: use the opportunities God gives today. James 4:14 also reminds us that life is brief. This calls for faithful service, not frantic activity.

For students at your church, school, friendships, family responsibilities, and online life compete for attention. This lesson asks you to choose what helps you follow Jesus and take one realistic step this week.

1. Work While You Still Have Time

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

- John 9:4-5
- James 4:14 — *“For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”*
- Matthew 9:37-38 — *“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.”*

GOING DEEPER EXPLANATION

Jesus ties urgency to purpose. He is not saying, “Rush around and stress out.” He is saying, *“Do what the Father sent you to do while you still can.”* The sermon made the point plain: if you wait until nighttime, work gets harder or impossible. That is true physically, but it is also spiritually true. There are moments in life when the opportunity to obey, repent, serve, forgive, and share Christ is right in front of you. Then there are moments when the opportunity is gone.

compared this to a field full of collard greens. A whole field can’t be harvested with just one or two people. That is how kingdom work is. God is not looking for spectators. He is looking for laborers.

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR TEENS

High school students know what procrastination feels like. You put off homework until late at night. You delay apologizing because you don’t want a hard conversation. You keep saying you’ll read your Bible “later,” pray “after class,” clean up your playlist “next week,” or tell a parent or youth leader about your struggle “when things calm down.” But later does not always come.

Working while it is day means:

- Doing your homework before panic hits
- Serving at home before your parents have to keep asking
- Deleting the message, photo, or app that keeps pulling you into sin
- Talking to a trusted adult before a hidden struggle gets worse
- Telling the truth instead of waiting until the lie gets bigger
- Sharing Jesus with a friend when the door is open, not after the moment passes

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one responsibility in your life right now that you are tempted to delay?

2. Why do you think teenagers often believe they have “more time” than they really do?

3. What might “the harvest” look like in your school, team, friend group, or family?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week, choose one thing you have delayed and do it today, not later.

2. Do Your Work Unto the Lord, Not Unto People

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

- Colossians 3:23-24 — *“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”*
- 1 Corinthians 4:2 — *“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”*
- Romans 12:1 — *“...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”*

GOING DEEPER EXPLANATION

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;” — Colossians 3:23 (KJV) Your effort and your motives both matter to the Lord.

said excellence is not perfection; it is faithfulness. That matters for students because a lot of teenagers are trying to impress people—friends, teachers, coaches, followers, crushes, and even adults. But if your main audience is people, your heart will get twisted. If your audience is the Lord, your work becomes worship.

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR TEENS

Doing your work unto the Lord looks like:

- Turning in honest schoolwork even when no one is watching
- Studying instead of gaming all night and pretending grades don’t matter
- Helping at home without constant complaining
- Serving in youth group, church, or at home without needing public praise
- Staying pure in dating and not using someone just for attention or validation

warned against wasting time on drama and selfishness. A patchwork afghan takes many pieces coming together. In the same way, God uses small acts of faithfulness—one assignment, one prayer, one act of service, one clean choice at a time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where are you most tempted to do things for people’s approval instead of God’s glory?

2. What does faithfulness look like in your schoolwork, sports, job, or family responsibilities?

3. Why is it hard to serve without expecting recognition?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Choose one area where you will work as to the Lord this week: an honest school assignment, a responsibility at home, or a quiet act of service at your church.

3. Let the Word Shape Your Mind Through Meditation

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

- Joshua 1:8 — Read the whole verse. God tells Joshua to meditate on His instruction so he will obey it. This is not a promise of automatic good grades, popularity, or wealth.
- Psalm 1:2 — *“But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”*
- Psalm 119:11 — *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”*
- 2 Timothy 1:7 — *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*

GOING DEEPER EXPLANATION

used a powerful picture: meditation is like meat marinating. You don’t just rub seasoning on the outside and rush the meal. You let it sit until the flavor gets inside. That is what God’s Word does when you keep thinking on it, praying over it, and returning to it. The Word gets into your heart, mind, and soul until you begin to respond from God’s perspective instead of your feelings.

Being rooted in Scripture gives you somewhere to turn under pressure. You can struggle and still keep growing; ask questions and seek help rather than pretending to have every answer.

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR TEENS

Meditation is more than reading a verse once in chapel or youth group. It means letting Scripture stay in your mind when:

- You are deciding whether to cheat, lie, or copy homework
- You are hurt by friends and want revenge
- You are tired, lonely, anxious, or discouraged
- You want to hide your struggle instead of asking for help

If a verse stays with you, it can help you delete the message instead of sending the one you will regret. It can help you tell the truth to your parents, teachers, coach, or youth leader. It can help you step away from the account, app, or conversation that keeps pulling you down.

Meditation also gives boldness. When somebody challenges what you believe, you do not have to be arrogant, but you also do not have to fold. You can stand on the Word.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between reading the Bible and meditating on the Bible?

2. What is one verse you need to “marinate” in this week?

3. How can God’s Word help you respond differently to temptation, fear, or peer pressure?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Choose one verse from this guide and repeat it daily this week. Write it down, say it before school, and pray it back to God at night.

If you are struggling with a serious issue, do not just sit alone with it. Meditate on the Word and talk to a parent, pastor, youth leader, counselor, or another trusted Christian adult.

4. Seek First What Matters Most

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

- Matthew 6:33 — *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*
- Proverbs 16:3 — *“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.”*
- Proverbs 4:25-27 — *“Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee... Turn not to the right hand nor to the left...”*

GOING DEEPER EXPLANATION

Wisdom asks what matters most. Matthew 6:33 directs us to seek God’s kingdom while trusting the Father with daily needs. It does not promise that every problem will disappear.

used the picture of water satisfying thirst better than soda. That’s a good picture for teens. A lot of stuff looks refreshing for a minute—attention, likes, flirting, scrolling, gossip, sneaking around—but it does not satisfy. God does.

He also said some things are distractions, and not every urgency deserves your attention. That is wisdom. Not everything that is loud is important.

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR TEENS

Seeking first the kingdom means:

- Starting your day with prayer instead of your phone
- Setting boundaries in dating so your relationship does not replace your walk with God
- Turning off the phone when it is time to study, worship, or sleep

It also means being careful with social media and online habits. If an app, account, or chat thread keeps feeding lust, jealousy, rage, or comparison, that is not harmless entertainment—it is a distraction from your assignment. Wisdom sometimes looks like deleting the app, muting the account, leaving the group chat, or asking a trusted adult to help you set boundaries.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What usually gets first place in your day—God, school, social media, sports, friends, or sleep?

2. What is one distraction you need to put in its proper place?

3. What does it look like to commit your works unto the Lord as a student?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week, reorder one part of your schedule:

Write down one thing that should be first in your life and one thing that needs to move down the list.

5. Bring Your Need to Christ and Keep Growing

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

- Luke 10:38-42 — Martha was busy, but Mary sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.
- Philippians 3:13-14 — *"...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark..."*
- Mark 5:27-29 — the woman with the issue of blood pressed through the crowd.
- Luke 18:35–43 — the blind man near Jericho cries out to Jesus for mercy.
- John 5:1–9 — Jesus heals a man who has no one to help him into the pool.

GOING DEEPER EXPLANATION

The call to move forward is an invitation to trust Christ, not a demand to recover on a timetable. Pain, disability, grief, and exhaustion are not proof of spiritual failure. A faithful next step may be prayer, repentance, asking for help, receiving care, or taking needed rest.

Martha was busy, but Mary chose the better part. The issue was not that serving was bad; the issue was that serving had become more important than hearing Jesus. Teenagers can do that too. You can be active in school, sports, church, or social life and still miss what Jesus is saying.

The woman trusts Jesus; the blind man cries out; Paul keeps pursuing his calling. Their circumstances differ. Each reminds us to turn toward the Lord rather than face the struggle alone.

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR TEENS

Pressing past brokenness looks like:

- Telling the truth about your pain instead of hiding behind a smile
- Getting help instead of pretending you are fine
- Refusing to let a breakup define your worth
- Not staying in a friendship that keeps pulling you into sin
- Talking to a parent, pastor, youth leader, teacher, coach, or counselor when you are overwhelmed
- Asking for prayer if you are tempted, anxious, depressed, addicted, or unsafe

If hurt or fear is making it hard to begin, tell a trusted adult. A next step may be getting support before taking on another responsibility.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what way can "busyness" hide a deeper spiritual problem?

2. Why is it hard for teenagers to admit when they need help?

3. What would pressing forward look like in your situation right now?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week, do one brave thing:

- Choose honesty and help over pretending you are fine.

If you feel unsafe or are being harmed, tell a trusted adult who can help. You do not need to describe private details in the group.

Group Exercise

"WORK WHILE IT IS DAY" PRIORITY CHECK

Give each student a sheet of paper and ask them to draw three columns:

1. What I keep putting off
2. What is distracting me
3. What I need to do first this week

Then have students privately fill it out. They do not have to share anything personal publicly.

After that, invite them to write one action step under each line. Examples:

- Finish one missing assignment
- Delete one app or leave one chat
- Read John 9:4 every morning
- Apologize to a sibling
- Talk to a parent or leader about a struggle

End by praying over the list without asking students to confess private details out loud.

PRACTICAL TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENT

Before next week, do these three things:

1. Memorize John 9:4
2. Complete one responsibility you have been delaying
3. Talk to one trusted adult about one area where you need help, wisdom, or prayer

LEADER NOTES

- Keep the tone serious and pastoral. This lesson deals with procrastination, but many students procrastinate because of fear, anxiety, shame, burnout, or hidden pain—not just laziness.
- Do not pressure students to confess private sins or family issues publicly.
- Encourage students to speak one-on-one with a parent, pastor, youth leader, school counselor, or another trusted Christian adult when needed.
- If a student discloses harm or danger, follow the church's safeguarding procedures and involve the appropriate support. Do not promise secrecy or pressure students to share publicly.
- Keep pointing students back to the text: Jesus had a mission, time mattered, and He worked faithfully while it was day.
- Help students make the connection between procrastination and discipleship. This is not just about productivity; it is about obedience.

CLOSING SUMMARY

God has given you opportunities to love, learn, and serve. Seek His kingdom, let His Word guide your choices, and ask for support when you need it. Begin with one faithful step.

The aim is faithfulness to Jesus. You do not need an impressive performance to be loved by Him.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank You for Your Word. Thank You for reminding us that time is a gift and that You have given us work to do for Your kingdom. Help us not to procrastinate, not to be distracted, and not to live for people's approval. Teach us to seek You first, to commit our works unto You, and to walk in faithfulness.

For every student in this group, give courage to do what needs to be done, wisdom to know what comes first, and humility to ask for help when they need it. Heal broken places, strengthen weak places, and guard hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Help us to delete what needs to go, say no to sin, tell the truth, and talk to the right adult when we need help.

Make us workers in Your kingdom, doers of the Word, and faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name, amen.

MY NEXT FAITHFUL STEP

One action I will take:

When I will begin / who can help:

ADULT SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Work While It Is Day

Overcoming Procrastination with Kingdom Wisdom

John 9:4 · Scripture quotations KJV · 60 minute group session

For adults growing together in the Word. Invite honest discussion and finish with one practical commitment.

BIG IDEA

God calls believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us.

MEMORY VERSE • JOHN 9:4 • KJV

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

Suggested use: 60 minutes—opening and Scripture (10), teaching and selected questions (30), personal response (15), prayer (5). Choose the questions most useful to your group.

MAIN SCRIPTURE PASSAGE • JOHN 9:4 (KJV)

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

OPENING: CONNECTING TO SUNDAY’S MESSAGE

Sunday’s message was a needed word for our time: God has called believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us. pressed the point that night is coming, and while life is still in our bodies, we must not waste time on delay, distraction, or spiritual laziness.

This guide is not meant to repeat the sermon, but to help us sit with the text, hear Jesus’ urgency, and ask what obedience looks like in real life. The call is simple but weighty: work while it is day.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTION

What is one thing you know God has put before you, but you have been tempted to delay?

FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION QUESTION

What usually causes your delay: fear, busyness, discouragement, distraction, or something else?

READ THE SCRIPTURE ALOUD

Have someone in the group read John 9:4-5 aloud slowly and clearly from the KJV. Then read Matthew 6:33 and Colossians 3:23 aloud as well.

LEADER PREPARATION

Understanding the passage and guiding the group

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

John 9 records Jesus healing a man born blind. The disciples were asking the wrong kind of question: they wanted to know who sinned. Jesus redirected them to purpose. In that setting, He said, *“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day.”*

This is more than a statement about Jesus’ schedule. It is a declaration of mission. Jesus knew His Father had sent Him, and He knew His earthly ministry would not remain open forever. The “day” represented the window of opportunity for His public work. The “night” pointed to the coming end of that opportunity.

For believers, the principle still stands. Our lives are a gift, not a guarantee. Time is borrowed. Assignments are real. The kingdom needs laborers. And the Lord calls us to live with urgency, wisdom, and faithfulness.

LEADER NOTES

- Keep the tone pastoral and practical. The sermon was strong and direct, but the goal here is not to shame people. It is to call them up.
- Let the group feel the weight of the phrase “while it is day.” Many adults are carrying busy schedules, family pressures, fatigue, and spiritual drift. Help them see that urgency is not panic; it is wise obedience.
- When discussing procrastination, be specific. Ask people what they are actually delaying: reconciliation, prayer, serving, giving, Bible reading, discipleship, confession, or evangelism.
- Emphasize that excellence is faithfulness, not perfection. Many believers stop serving because they feel inadequate. Encourage them that God can use small, faithful work.
- If the group begins to drift into vague spirituality, bring them back to the text: Jesus said, “I must work.” The question is not whether we feel ready. The question is whether we will obey.
- Be sensitive with the brokenness section. Some people are dealing with real grief, trauma, illness, or disappointment. The goal is not to minimize pain, but to show that pain does not get the final word.

TEACHING 01

Work While You Still Have Time

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

John 9:4-5 · James 4:14 · Matthew 9:37-38

GOING DEEPER

Jesus said, “I must work.” That word must matters. It shows necessity, not convenience. This was not Jesus fitting God’s work into His spare time. It was His Father’s assignment, and He moved with purpose.

In John 9, day and night describe the opportunity and urgency of Jesus’ mission. applies that urgency to our limited earthly lives: use the opportunities God gives today. James 4:14 also reminds us that life is brief. This calls for faithful service, not frantic activity.

Matthew 9:37-38 reminds us that the harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few. The sermon’s collard greens illustration makes the point plain: a large field can be ready, but without enough laborers, the work slows down. Kingdom work is not completed by spectators. It is completed by workers.

PRACTICAL TEACHING

- Time is a gift, not a guarantee.
- Salvation is not just for security; it includes service.
- God is calling for laborers, not just attenders.
- Putting off clear obedience can become disobedience. Prayerful waiting, needed rest, and receiving help are different from avoiding a responsibility.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What kinds of spiritual work do people tend to put off until “later”?
2. Why do you think Jesus tied urgency to His mission in John 9:4?
3. Where do you see the need for more laborers in your church, home, or community?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Choose one assignment you have been delaying and make a decision about it this week. It may be:

- making a phone call to reconcile with someone,
- signing up to serve in a ministry,
- starting a prayer routine,
- having the gospel conversation you keep postponing,
- or finishing a task you promised to complete.

Do not leave it vague. Put a date on it. Do it while it is day.

TEACHING 02

Do Your Work Unto the Lord Not Unto People

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

Colossians 3:23-24 · 1 Corinthians 4:2 · Romans 12:1

GOING DEEPER

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;” — Colossians 3:23 (KJV)
Serving Christ changes the motive of our labor.

People may notice your work, praise your work, criticize your work, or ignore your work. But the real question is: Who are you working for? If we are serving only for human approval, we will get tired, offended, and inconsistent. But when we know the Lord sees, it steadies the heart.

also made an important distinction: excellence is not perfection; it is faithfulness. God is not asking for flawless people. He is asking for faithful people. The issue is not whether you can do everything. The issue is whether you will do what He gave you to do with sincerity and diligence.

Romans 12:1 reminds us that our lives are to be a living sacrifice. That means our work, our attitude, our service, and our schedule all belong to Him.

PRACTICAL TEACHING

- Excellence is not showing off; it is being faithful.
- Your work can become worship when it is done unto the Lord.
- Faithfulness includes private devotion, not just public service.
- God cares about motive, not only movement.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What changes when you work as though the Lord Himself is your audience?

2. In what areas of life are you tempted to do the bare minimum instead of being faithful?

3. Why is it dangerous to measure your service only by public recognition?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week, do one neglected responsibility “heartily, as to the Lord.” That may mean:

- finishing a work project with integrity,
- serving your family without grumbling,
- showing up early and prepared for ministry,
- giving generously without needing attention,
- or completing something at home that has been left undone.

Do it with no announcement. Let it be worship.

TEACHING 03

Let the Word Shape Your Mind Through Meditation

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

Joshua 1:8 · Psalm 1:2-3 · Psalm 119:11 · 2 Timothy 1:7

GOING DEEPER

One of the strongest burdens in the sermon was the call to meditate on God's Word day and night. Reading the Bible is necessary, but meditation helps the truth settle into your heart until it changes how you think, respond, and decide.

illustration of marinating meat is useful here. If you want tenderness, flavor, and depth, the meat has to stay in the marinade. In the same way, the Word of God has to stay with us long enough to break down hardness, shape our desires, and renew our minds.

Joshua 1:8 calls Joshua to meditate so that he obeys God's instruction; Psalm 1 pictures the fruitfulness of a life rooted in that instruction. Return to the Word when pressure comes. Being rooted does not mean never struggling.

PRACTICAL TEACHING

- Meditation is not emptying your mind; it is filling your mind with God's truth.
- The Word softens a stubborn heart.
- A person who meditates becomes less controlled by feelings and opinions.
- Boldness comes from being rooted in what God said.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between casually reading Scripture and meditating on it?

2. How does meditation help you resist procrastination?

3. What happens when a believer reacts more to feelings than to the Word?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Pick one verse this week and meditate on it daily. Write it down. Pray over it. Repeat it. Ask:

- What does this reveal about God?
- What does this correct in me?
- What obedience does this require?

Suggested verse: Matthew 6:33, John 9:4, or Colossians 3:23.

TEACHING 04

Seek First What Matters Most

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

Matthew 6:33 · Proverbs 16:3 · Proverbs 4:25-27

GOING DEEPER

Wisdom knows what comes first. That phrase from the sermon is worth keeping close. A procrastinating life often comes from disordered priorities. Sometimes we are not lazy in the usual sense; we are simply busy with the wrong things.

Matthew 6:33 (KJV) says, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* In context, Jesus is addressing worry about daily needs such as food and clothing. Put those needs under the Father’s care.

Proverbs 16:3 teaches us to commit our works unto the Lord, and our thoughts shall be established. Proverbs 4:25-27 shows the need for intentional focus, watching where our eyes go and keeping our feet on a straight path.

It also challenged us not to feed foolishness. The more we stir nonsense, the more it stinks. Wisdom sometimes looks like saying, *“No, that is not where my attention is going.”*

PRACTICAL TEACHING

- First things must stay first.
- Not every urgent thing is important.
- Distraction can steal the time needed for your assignment.
- Commitment brings stability; instability often comes from divided attention.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the biggest distractions that compete with God’s priorities in your life?
2. Where have you confused urgency with importance?
3. What would change if you truly treated God’s kingdom as first in your schedule, spending, and decisions?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take a look at your calendar, phone usage, and energy this week. Ask: What has been first in practice?

Then make one adjustment:

- set aside a fixed prayer time,
- limit one distraction,
- commit to Bible study instead of passive scrolling,
- or reorganize one area of your schedule around kingdom priorities.

TEACHING 05

Bring Your Need to Christ and Keep Growing

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

Luke 10:38-42 · Philippians 3:13-14 · Mark 5:27-29 · Luke 18:35-43 · John 5:1-9

GOING DEEPER

calls us to bring our burdens to Christ and respond to His Word. Where we have avoided obedience, we can repent. Where we are hurting, we can seek help without shame.

Martha was busy. Mary was listening. The issue was not that serving is bad; the issue was that Martha had become “careful and troubled about many things” when one thing was needful. That is a warning for any believer who stays busy but remains spiritually unfed.

The woman with bleeding reaches toward Jesus; the blind man near Jericho calls for mercy. At Bethesda, a man explains that he has no one to help him into the pool, and Jesus heals him (John 5:1–9). The power belongs to Christ, not to human effort.

The call to move forward is an invitation to trust Christ, not a demand to recover on a timetable. Pain, disability, grief, and exhaustion are not proof of spiritual failure. A faithful next step may be prayer, repentance, asking for help, receiving care, or taking needed rest.

Philippians 3:13-14 gives the posture: forgetting those things which are behind and pressing toward the mark.

PRACTICAL TEACHING

- Busyness is not the same as discipleship.
- Brokenness is real, but it does not have to become identity.
- Bring your need to Christ and seek a wise next step.
- Faith keeps moving when feelings want to quit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between healthy grief, honest struggle, and using brokenness as an excuse?
2. Which Bible character from this sermon do you relate to most right now: Martha, the woman with the issue of blood, the blind man, or the man at Bethesda? Why?
3. What does “pressing” look like for a believer who feels stuck?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Name one burden or area of struggle you want to bring to Christ. You may keep the details private. Pray specifically:

- “Lord, help me press.”
- “Lord, heal my mind.”
- “Lord, restore my discipline.”

Take one supported step this week: ask for help, make an appointment, open the Word with someone, or discuss a realistic way to serve.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Reflect and take a faithful next step

Take five minutes of quiet reflection and answer these questions in writing:

1. What have I been putting off that God has already put before me?

2. What distraction most often steals my attention from the kingdom?

3. What is one act of faithful service I can do before next Sunday?

4. Where do I need to seek first the kingdom of God more intentionally?

5. What does obedience look like for me this week, in one concrete action?

Then, if your group is comfortable, invite one or two people to share only what they feel led to share.

PRACTICAL TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENT

This week, complete these three commitments:

1. Choose one neglected responsibility and finish it.
2. Memorize John 9:4.
3. Put one kingdom priority first every day.

CLOSING

Bring the message into your week

CLOSING SUMMARY

John 9:4 gives us a kingdom urgency we cannot ignore. Jesus worked while it was day, and He calls us to do the same. The sermon reminded us that time is short, the harvest is ready, and the Lord is looking for faithful workers.

We do not overcome procrastination by willpower alone. We overcome it by wisdom: seeking first the kingdom, committing our works to the Lord, meditating on His Word, and pressing past brokenness into obedience. The call is not merely to stay busy. The call is to stay faithful.

Night is coming. So let us work while it is day.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, in the name of Jesus, we thank You for Your Word and for the reminder that we must work the works of Him that sent us while it is day. Forgive us for every delay, every distraction, every excuse, and every place where we have not been faithful. Teach us to seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness. Help us to commit our works unto You, and establish our thoughts. Give us strength to meditate on Your Word, boldness to stand on Your truth, and grace to press past brokenness and finish our assignment. Make us doers of the Word and not hearers only. Let our lives line up with Your will, and let our work bring You glory. In Jesus' name, amen.

MY NEXT FAITHFUL STEP

One action I will take:

When I will begin / who can help:

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branding is shown as a design demonstration. The lesson comes from the New Hope sample guide; it is not presented as a sermon.

ADULT TEACHING GUIDE

Work While It Is Day

Going deeper from the message

John 9:4 · Scripture quotations KJV ·

Prepared for your church teachers and ministry leaders. Use the full outline to prepare, then select discussion questions that fit your class.

BIG IDEA

God calls believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us.

MEMORY VERSE • JOHN 9:4 • KJV

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

MAIN SCRIPTURE TEXT

John 9:4 (KJV)

TEACHER’S AIM

Help adults at your church connect call to faithful service with one practical step at home, at church, or in the local community. Distinguish avoidable delay from prayerful waiting, needed rest, and circumstances that call for support.

LESSON OVERVIEW

Trace five themes: use today’s opportunities, serve the Lord faithfully, meditate on Scripture, seek the kingdom first, and bring your needs to Christ. Keep returning to John 9:4 so the lesson remains rooted in Jesus’ mission.

MAIN IDEA

God calls believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us.

KEY VERSE

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.” — John 9:4 (KJV)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Colossians 3:23–24; Matthew 6:33; Proverbs 16:3; Proverbs 4:25–27; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; Psalm 119:11; Luke 10:38–42; Philippians 3:13–14; Mark 5:25–34; Luke 18:35–43; James 4:14; Matthew 9:37–38.

SUGGESTED CLASS OR GROUP FLOW

Context and five teaching points • 30 minutes

Discussion and personal response • 15 minutes

Prayer and one next step • 5 minutes

OPENING QUESTION

What is one important thing in your life that you have delayed too long, and what has kept you from dealing with it?

SCRIPTURE READING INSTRUCTIONS

Have the class read John 9:1-5 aloud together in the KJV. Then read Colossians 3:23-24, Matthew 6:33, and Proverbs 16:3. If time allows, read Luke 10:38-42 as a supporting passage. Encourage the class to listen for urgency, obedience, and priority as the text is read.

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

Before healing the man born blind, Jesus answers His disciples' question about sin and suffering (John 9:1–7). He rejects their attempt to assign blame and points to the works of God. His words in verse 4 express the urgency of the Father's mission; the healing follows in verses 6–7.

In John 9, day and night describe the opportunity and urgency of Jesus' mission. applies that urgency to our limited earthly lives: use the opportunities God gives today. James 4:14 also reminds us that life is brief. This calls for faithful service, not frantic activity.

INTRODUCTION

burden is plain: do not waste your life in delay. Work while it is day. Ask what the Father has placed before you, and respond with the strength and opportunity He gives.

This lesson is not merely about being busy. It is about being faithful. It is not about frantic activity. It is about kingdom purpose, spiritual discipline, and wise priorities. The church does not need more procrastinators; it needs workers. It does not need more spectators; it needs disciples who hear the Word, meditate on it, and do it.

1. Work While You Still Have Time

TIME IS A GIFT, NOT A GUARANTEE

Jesus said, "while it is day," because day does not last forever. The body slows down at night, and life itself eventually ends. James reminds us, *"For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away"* (James 4:14, KJV).

THE HARVEST NEEDS LABORERS

The harvest is still plenteous, but the laborers are few. God does not save us merely to preserve us; He saves us to use us. The church needs workers in the vineyard, not just members in the pew.

SCRIPTURE SUPPORT

- John 9:4-5
- James 4:14
- Matthew 9:37-38

TEACHING THOUGHT

There is work that can only be done while there is life in the body and light in the day. Jesus tied urgency to purpose. Procrastination says, “Later.” Kingdom wisdom says, “Now.” The message of this text is that delayed obedience can become disobedience if we keep postponing what God told us to do.

ILLUSTRATION

A field of collard greens can be beautiful and plentiful, but if only two or three people are working, the harvest takes too long. With fifty or sixty hands, the same field can be gathered quickly. In the same way, the kingdom advances when believers stop sitting on the sidelines and start laboring together.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some ways believers delay kingdom work under the excuse of “later”?

2. Why is it easy to treat time as if we have more of it than we really do?

2. How does our service grow out of salvation by grace rather than earn it?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Identify one area of obedience you have delayed: prayer, evangelism, forgiveness, serving, giving, or reconciling with someone.
- Set a deadline to act on it this week.
- Ask God daily: *“Lord, what work do You want me to do today while it is day?”*
- Stop waiting for the perfect moment and start with what is in your hand.

2. Do Your Work Unto the Lord, Not Unto People

EXCELLENCE IS FAITHFULNESS

Colossians 3:23 says, *“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”* Excellence is not perfection; it is faithfulness. God is not asking for showmanship. He is asking for sincere, wholehearted obedience.

YOUR WORK CAN BE WORSHIP

When work is done for Christ, it becomes an offering. Service, ministry, hospitality, teaching, praying, giving, and encouraging can all become acts of worship when they are done unto the Lord.

SCRIPTURE SUPPORT

- Colossians 3:23-24
- 1 Corinthians 4:2
- Romans 12:1

TEACHING THOUGHT

The sermon makes this plain: some people can do things well but are not faithful. God is not impressed by occasional brilliance if there is no steady obedience. The reward is not for those who only look good in public; it is for the servant who is faithful in secret and consistent in the work.

This point also rebukes the habit of doing ministry for human applause. warned that we must not do the work unto man. If our motive is praise, position, or attention, our work is already compromised. But when we work for the Lord, even small tasks carry eternal weight.

ILLUSTRATION

The sermon's patchwork afghan picture is powerful: one person may sew one piece, another person may sew another, and another may finish a corner. By itself, one piece is small. Together, the pieces make something useful, warm, and beautiful. The same is true in the church. Small acts of faithfulness add up to a larger kingdom purpose.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it look like to do church work "heartily, as to the Lord"?
2. Why is faithfulness often harder than talent?
3. What are some ministry tasks people overlook because they seem small?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Choose one responsibility you have neglected and complete it with excellence this week.
- Do one hidden act of service without telling anyone.
- Examine your motive: Are you trying to be seen, or are you trying to please the Lord?
- If you serve in a ministry, ask yourself whether your work is marked by consistency, humility, and reverence.

3. Let the Word Shape Your Mind Through Meditation

MEDITATION PRODUCES SPIRITUAL SENSITIVITY

Joshua 1:8 links meditation with obedience in Joshua's calling to lead Israel. Psalm 1 pictures a life rooted in God's instruction. Neither passage promises an easy life or automatic wealth; both direct us to let the Word shape our actions.

MEDITATION GIVES YOU BOLDNESS

When the Word is in you, you can stand on it. You are less likely to be shaken by pressure, deception, or spiritual challenge. A rooted saint does not flinch every time the devil questions truth.

SCRIPTURE SUPPORT

- Joshua 1:8
- Psalm 1:2
- Psalm 119:11
- 2 Timothy 1:7

TEACHING THOUGHT

Meditation becomes practical when a verse changes a response: tell the truth, refuse gossip, pray before deciding, or keep a commitment.

Reading the Bible is good, but meditating on the Bible is deeper. A believer can know a verse and still not be shaped by it. Meditation means praying over the text, considering its meaning, asking God for understanding, and letting the truth correct your feelings and opinions.

ILLUSTRATION

A saint who meditates on the Word is like meat in marinating sauce. The longer it stays, the more it breaks down and absorbs the flavor. The Word breaks down stubbornness, softens hard places in the heart, and makes us ready to receive instruction.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between reading Scripture and meditating on Scripture?

2. Why do believers often resist the very Word that could heal them?

3. How does God’s Word make us bolder when the enemy challenges us?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Pick one verse from this lesson and meditate on it daily for seven days.
- Read it slowly, pray over it, and write one sentence about how it applies to your life.
- When tempted to argue with Scripture, pause and ask, “Lord, what are You saying to me?”
- Replace one hour of mindless scrolling or entertainment with Scripture and prayer.

4. Seek First What Matters Most

FIRST THINGS MUST STAY FIRST

Matthew 6:33 says, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* Wisdom knows what comes first. If Christ is first, everything else can fall into place under His rule.

COMMITMENT ESTABLISHES STABILITY

Proverbs 16:3 says, *“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.”* Proverbs 4:25-27 tells us to look straight ahead and ponder the path of our feet. God establishes what we commit to Him.

SCRIPTURE SUPPORT

- Matthew 6:33
- Proverbs 16:3
- Proverbs 4:25-27

TEACHING THOUGHT

Much of procrastination is not laziness at the surface; it is misplaced priorities underneath. We get distracted by things that feel urgent but are not important. The sermon presses the point that the kingdom of God must come first. When God is first, He orders the rest.

Seeking the kingdom first places our responsibilities under God’s rule. In Matthew 6, “all these things” refers to needs such as food and clothing, not every outcome we desire.

ILLUSTRATION

A thirsty person may reach for a soda, tea, or something sweet, but water is what truly refreshes and stabilizes the body. In the same way, many people chase temporary satisfaction while neglecting the one thing needed most: God’s kingdom and righteousness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What kinds of distractions most often steal your attention from spiritual priorities?
2. Why do people often confuse urgency with importance?
3. What does it look like to commit your works to the Lord in daily life?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Write down your top three priorities for this week and compare them with your time spent.
- Remove one distraction that keeps you from prayer, study, or service.
- Practice saying no to something that is good so you can say yes to what is best.
- Begin each day by asking, “Lord, what comes first today?”

5. Bring Your Need to Christ and Keep Growing

DON’T CONFUSE ACTIVITY WITH PURPOSE

Luke 10:38-42 shows Martha busy with serving while Mary sat at Jesus’ feet hearing His word. Busyness is not the same as discipleship. Some people are always active but still not getting to the heart of the matter.

BRING YOUR NEED TO CHRIST

The woman who suffered with bleeding trusted Jesus and was healed by His power (Mark 5:25–34). The blind man near Jericho cried out for mercy (Luke 18:35–43). These accounts direct us to Christ’s compassion and authority.

SCRIPTURE SUPPORT

- Luke 10:38-42
- Philippians 3:13-14
- Mark 5:27-29
- Luke 18:35-43
- John 5:1-9

TEACHING THOUGHT

The call to move forward is an invitation to trust Christ, not a demand to recover on a timetable. Pain, disability, grief, and exhaustion are not proof of spiritual failure. A faithful next step may be prayer, repentance, asking for help, receiving care, or taking needed rest.

Mary listens to Jesus. The woman reaches toward Him. The blind man calls for mercy. Paul presses toward his calling. Their situations differ, but each directs our attention toward the Lord rather than self-sufficiency.

ILLUSTRATION

image of returning a broken item to its maker invites us to bring our lives to God. We cannot repair ourselves by willpower alone. Depend on Christ and receive the help He provides; do not turn the illustration into a promise of immediate recovery.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Luke 10, what did Martha miss by focusing on service instead of Jesus' word?

2. Why do some people stay in broken patterns even after they know better?

3. What does "pressing" look like for a believer today?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Name one area where you have been stuck in brokenness, delay, or excuse-making.
- Bring that area to Christ in prayer and ask for real change, not just relief.
- Take one step toward healing: counseling, repentance, accountability, apology, or discipline.
- Stop letting your pain become your identity.

CLOSING CHALLENGE

The time to work is now. Night is coming. Do not waste your life on distractions, drama, and delay. Seek the kingdom first. Commit your works to the Lord. Meditate on His Word. Press past what has held you back. Become a worker in the vineyard and a doer of the Word.

FINAL COMMITMENT STATEMENT

By God's grace, I will stop procrastinating, seek the kingdom first, and work faithfully while it is day.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What does John 9:4 teach us about urgency?

2. Why is faithfulness more important than appearance or talent?

3. How does meditation on God's Word help believers resist distraction?

4. What does Matthew 6:33 require believers to put first?

5. What might a faithful next step look like for someone who is hurting?

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Where have I been delaying obedience to God?

2. Am I working for the Lord or for people's approval?

3. What distraction has most consistently pulled my heart away from kingdom priorities?

4. What help, prayer, or practical support do I need to take my next step?

5. What one step of faithful action will I take before the week ends?

TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENT

This week, choose one neglected responsibility and finish it with excellence. Also, memorize John 9:4 and pray it each morning before you begin your day. Keep a brief journal of where you saw distraction trying to pull you away from kingdom priorities and how you responded.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, in the name of Jesus, thank You for another day and for the truth of Your Word. Help us to work while it is day and not waste the time You have given us. Deliver us from procrastination, from distraction, from brokenness, and from foolishness. Teach us to seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness. Establish our thoughts as we commit our works unto You. Make us faithful workers, humble servants, and bold witnesses. Let our lives line up with Your Word, and let our work glorify Christ. Heal the sick, strengthen the weak, restore the weary, and move us from delay to obedience. In Jesus' name, amen.

MY NEXT FAITHFUL STEP

One action I will take:

When I will begin / who can help:

MEN'S SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Work While It Is Day

Going deeper from the message

John 9:4 · Scripture quotations KJV ·

For men in the church family. Bring work, home, relationships, and ministry under the direction of God's Word.

BIG IDEA

God calls believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us.

MEMORY VERSE • JOHN 9:4 • KJV

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

Suggested use: 60 minutes—opening and Scripture (10), teaching and selected questions (30), personal response (15), prayer (5). Choose the questions most useful to your group.

Main Scripture: John 9:4 (KJV)

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTION FOR MEN

What is one area of your life where you know God has already told you to act, but you have been delaying, avoiding, or making excuses?

FOLLOW-UP QUESTION

What is keeping you from obeying right now—fear, pride, busyness, distraction, or comfort?

SCRIPTURE READING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Have one man read John 9:1-5 aloud.

2. Have another man read Colossians 3:23-24 aloud.

3. Have another man read Matthew 6:33 and Proverbs 16:3 aloud.

4. If time allows, read Luke 10:38-42 together.

5. Ask the group to listen for:

- urgency,
- purpose,
- priorities,
- and the difference between being busy and being faithful.

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

Before healing the man born blind, Jesus answers His disciples' question about sin and suffering (John 9:1–7). He rejects their attempt to assign blame and points to the works of God. His words in verse 4 express the urgency of the Father's mission; the healing follows in verses 6–7.

In John 9, day and night describe the opportunity and urgency of Jesus' mission. applies that urgency to our limited earthly lives: use the opportunities God gives today. James 4:14 also reminds us that life is brief. This calls for faithful service, not frantic activity.

For men, this hits home. God has assigned us responsibility in the home, in the church, in the workplace, in friendship, in leadership, and in private holiness. We cannot keep saying, "I'll get to it later," when later may never come.

1) Work While You Still Have Time

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

John 9:4-5; James 4:14; Matthew 9:37-38

GOING DEEPER EXPLANATION

Jesus says, "I must work…" That word must matters. This was not optional, casual, or delayed obedience. Jesus knew His Father had sent Him with a mission, and He treated His time as valuable.

James reminds us that life is a vapor. The sermon emphasized that life is borrowed time. God lent us this life, this body, this day. Men often assume we will have more time to fix what is broken, apologize later, pray later, lead later, serve later. Scripture does not give us that guarantee.

Jesus also said the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. used the image of a field of collard greens: if the field is large and the workers are few, the work drags on. But if many people labor, the harvest is gathered. The kingdom works the same way. The issue is not whether there is work. The issue is whether we will stop delaying and start laboring.

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR MEN

- For husbands: Don't procrastinate on hard conversations, repentance, prayer together, or spiritual leadership at home. If you have hurt your wife, speak up and make it right.
- For fathers: Don't delay discipling your children because of work stress or tiredness. Read Scripture, pray with them, and model integrity now.
- For single men: Don't waste your season waiting for someday. Build character, discipline, purity, and spiritual habits now.
- For employees and employers: Do your work with urgency and honesty. Stop pretending busyness is the same as productivity.
- For ministry leaders and church members: Don't treat church as a place to attend only. Be a laborer, not just a spectator.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where are men most tempted to delay obedience—home, finances, prayer, church involvement, or personal holiness?
2. Where has procrastination affected your responsibilities or relationships?

3. How does remembering that life is a vapor change the way a man spends his time?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week, identify one assignment from God you have been putting off. Write it down. Set a deadline. Then take the first step within 24 hours.

2) Do Your Work Unto the Lord, Not Unto People

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

Colossians 3:23-24; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Romans 12:1

GOING DEEPER EXPLANATION

stressed that we should do what we do “heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.” That means our motive matters as much as our action. A man can look active and still be serving people’s opinions instead of God’s will.

Excellence is not perfection. It is faithfulness. Faithfulness means the work is done with a clean heart, steady hands, and a sincere desire to please God. Some men are gifted, but unreliable. Some are talented, but inconsistent. God is not just looking for skill; He is looking for faithfulness.

The sermon’s afghan illustration fits here: one piece by itself may look small, but when each person does his part, the whole thing becomes useful and beautiful. In the kingdom, every honest task matters. A quiet task done well may serve a larger purpose than a visible task done lazily.

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR MEN

- For husbands: Serve your wife without keeping score. If you help, lead, provide, and listen, do it unto the Lord—not for applause.
- For fathers: Be faithful in the unnoticed work: school pickups, bedtime prayers, discipline, provision, and presence.
- For single men: Build a life of integrity when nobody is clapping. Hidden faithfulness prepares you for public responsibility.
- For employees: Work honestly when the boss is not watching. Don’t steal time, exaggerate effort, or cut corners.
- For employers and leaders: Treat people fairly. Lead with truth, consistency, and accountability.
- For church members: Don’t wait to be seen before you serve. Do your part in the body because Christ sees.

The sermon reminded us that rewards are not just coming later; God blesses faithfulness now. But the man of God does not serve for temporary recognition. He serves because the Lord Christ is the One he answers to.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where do you feel most tempted to do things for people’s approval instead of God’s approval?

2. What does faithfulness look like in ordinary life for a Christian man?

3. How can your work become worship this week?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Choose one responsibility you have been doing halfway. Finish it with excellence this week—at work, at home, at church, or in your personal life.

3) Let the Word Shape Your Mind Through Meditation

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; Psalm 119:11; 2 Timothy 1:7

GOING DEEPER EXPLANATION

made a strong point that reading the Bible is good, but meditating on it is deeper. Meditation is not mystical confusion. It is prayerful, repeated, thoughtful attention to God's Word until it sinks into the heart.

He used the illustration of marinating meat: when the word is allowed to stay on you, it tenderizes hard places. That is exactly what meditation does. It softens stubbornness, exposes excuses, and forms spiritual strength. A rooted man is not just one who has been in church a long time. A rooted man is one who is built in the Word and able to stand under pressure.

Meditating on Scripture helps a man face challenges with humility and conviction. Confidence grows through knowing and trusting the Word, even while questions or fears remain.

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR MEN

- For husbands: Meditate on Scripture before reacting in conflict. Don't let pride speak louder than truth.
- For fathers: Let your children see you reading, praying, and talking about God's Word naturally and consistently.
- For single men: Replace temptation-driven thoughts with Scripture. Guard your mind before the battle starts.
- For employees and employers: Before stressful meetings or hard decisions, pray through a verse and let truth govern your response.
- For brothers in Christ: Hold each other accountable to real Bible intake, not just church attendance.

The sermon emphasized that the heart can become stubborn if the Word is not allowed to work. Men often know what is right but need the Word deep enough to actually obey it when pressure comes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between reading Scripture and meditating on Scripture?

2. Where do you notice stubbornness or resistance in your heart right now?

3. What verse do you need to keep in front of you this week?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Memorize John 9:4 this week. Repeat it daily. Write it where you will see it often—in your truck, office, bathroom mirror, or phone lock screen.

4) Seek First What Matters Most

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

Matthew 6:33; Proverbs 16:3; Proverbs 4:25-27

GOING DEEPER EXPLANATION

Jesus said, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* The word first is the issue. Wisdom knows what comes first.

Putting the kingdom first means bringing money, relationships, entertainment, and work under God’s rule. Proverbs 16:3 calls us to commit our works to the Lord. Let that surrender guide decisions; it is not a promise that every emotional or practical struggle disappears.

also warned against distractions and foolishness. Not everything urgent deserves your attention. Some men are constantly busy but not actually productive. They are distracted by screens, drama, unfinished habits, and emotional clutter. Wisdom says no to what pulls you away from God’s assignment so you can say yes to what matters.

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR MEN

- For husbands: Don’t let work, sports, phone habits, or secret distractions steal the best of you from your wife and family.
- For fathers: Put kingdom priorities ahead of convenience. Your children need more than your paycheck; they need your spiritual attention.
- For single men: Don’t build your life around dating, image, or entertainment. Build around the kingdom.
- For employees and employers: Don’t let ambition become idolatry. Seek God first, and let your work be ordered by Him.
- For ministry leaders: Don’t confuse activity with obedience. A full calendar does not mean a fruitful life.
- For church members: Protect the priority of worship, Bible study, prayer, and service. Do not treat the things of God like leftovers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What competes most with God for first place in your life?

2. Where have you mistaken activity for obedience?

3. What would change this week if the kingdom truly came first?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Identify one distraction you need to cut off or limit this week. Replace that time with prayer, Scripture, family presence, or service.

5) Bring Your Need to Christ and Keep Growing

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

Luke 10:38-42; Philippians 3:13-14; Mark 5:27-29; Luke 18:35-43; John 5:1-9

GOING DEEPER EXPLANATION

Martha is distracted, Mary listens, the woman with bleeding reaches toward Jesus, and the blind man asks for mercy. At Bethesda, Jesus heals a man who has no one to help him into the pool. These accounts reveal Christ's compassion and authority, not a lesson that illness comes from making excuses.

Name the difference between an excuse and a need for support. Begin with honest statements such as:

- *"I need rest and help managing my responsibilities."*
- "I have been hurt, and I need support."
- *"I need someone to help me take the next step."*
- "I have a pattern I need to change."
- "I need to make room for what matters."
- "I can begin with one faithful step today."

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR MEN

- For husbands: If the marriage is strained, press toward truth, not silence. Seek counsel, pray, apologize, and pursue peace.
- For fathers: If you have been absent emotionally, press back in. Show up, listen, correct, and love.
- For single men: Don't let loneliness push you into compromise. Press toward holiness.
- For employees and employers: If your heart is frustrated, don't take it out on everyone around you. Press into self-control and maturity.
- For ministry leaders: Be honest about burdens behind the title. Seek prayer, accountability, and care; discuss rest or adjusted responsibilities when needed.
- For church members and brothers: Refuse isolation. Ask for help. Tell the truth. Let other men walk with you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What excuse are you most tempted to hide behind when God calls you to move?

2. Where do you need to press instead of quit?

3. What does healthy accountability look like for men in this group?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Choose one wise next step: ask for help, make a needed appointment, repair a wrong, or discuss a realistic way to resume a responsibility.

Group Exercise

“WORK WHILE IT IS DAY” INVENTORY

Give each man a sheet of paper and ask him to write three columns:

1. What God has assigned me
2. What I have been delaying
3. My next obedient step

Invite men to share one response if they wish. Keep private details private, and offer prayer and practical encouragement.

Optional accountability question to ask one another each week:

- *“What faithful step did you take this week, and what support would help you continue?”*

PRACTICAL TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENT

This week, each man should do all three:

1. Seek first: Start each day with John 9:4 and Matthew 6:33.
2. Finish one delayed task: Complete one thing you have been putting off—an apology, a phone call, a repair, a prayer habit, a budget, a confession, or a family conversation.
3. Serve one person intentionally: Help a brother, encourage your family, check on a church member, or assist someone in need without needing credit.

LEADER NOTES

- Keep the tone brotherly, direct, and pastoral. Do not shame the men; challenge them toward obedience.
- Encourage honest conversation about procrastination, fear, pride, and hidden struggles.
- Be careful not to assume every man is married or has children. Include every life stage.
- When discussing accountability, push toward practical next steps, not vague intentions.
- If men begin to confess struggles, treat those moments with care, confidentiality, and prayer.
- Revisit the memory verse often. John 9:4 is the anchor of the lesson.
- If discussion stalls, ask: *“What would obedience look like in the next 24 hours?”*
- Remind the group that wisdom is not just knowing the right thing; it is doing the right thing in the right order.

CLOSING SUMMARY

Jesus said, *“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day.”* That is the call for every man of God. Time is a gift. Work is an assignment. Obedience is urgent. Procrastination is dangerous. The kingdom must come first.

We do not want to be men who are busy but fruitless, gifted but inconsistent, or informed but disobedient. We want our work to line up with our lifestyle, and our lifestyle to line up with God’s Word. We want to be men of truth—honest, courageous, humble, responsible, accountable, and faithful.

The night is coming. So let us work while it is day.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, in the name of Jesus, thank You for Your Word and for the clear call to work while it is day. Forgive us for every area where we have delayed, excused, avoided, or ignored Your voice. Teach us to seek first the kingdom of God and Your righteousness. Help us to commit our works unto You, and establish our thoughts and steps. Make us men of truth—honest, courageous, humble, responsible, and faithful. Strengthen husbands, fathers, sons, friends, employees, employers, ministry leaders, church members, and brothers in Christ to obey You without procrastination. Help us to press past brokenness, resist distraction, and serve with excellence as unto the Lord. Let our lives bear witness that we belong to You. And when our work is finished, may we hear You say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” In Jesus’ name, amen.

LADIES' SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Work While It Is Day

Going deeper from the message

John 9:4 · Scripture quotations KJV ·

For women in the church family. Reflect together on faithful service, wise priorities, and the support needed to follow through.

BIG IDEA

God calls believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us.

MEMORY VERSE • JOHN 9:4 • KJV

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

Suggested use: 60 minutes—opening and Scripture (10), teaching and selected questions (30), personal response (15), prayer (5). Choose the questions most useful to your group.

Main Scripture: John 9:4 (KJV)

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTION

As women, what is one area of your life where you know God has been calling you to act, but you have been delaying, avoiding, or putting it off?

FOLLOW-UP QUESTION

What usually gets in the way of obedience for you: fear, tiredness, people-pleasing, distractions, hurt, or not knowing where to begin?

SCRIPTURE READING INSTRUCTIONS

Read John 9:1-5 together before discussing John 9:4. Then read these supporting passages aloud:

- Colossians 3:23-24
- Matthew 6:33
- Proverbs 16:3
- Luke 10:38-42
- Philippians 3:13-14

Encourage the group to listen for:

1. What Jesus says about urgency.

2. What the Lord expects from our work.

4. What happens when we let distraction or brokenness control us.

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

Before healing the man born blind, Jesus answers His disciples' question about sin and suffering (John 9:1–7). He rejects their attempt to assign blame and points to the works of God. His words in verse 4 express the urgency of the Father's mission; the healing follows in verses 6–7.

In John 9, day and night describe the opportunity and urgency of Jesus' mission. applies that urgency to our limited earthly lives: use the opportunities God gives today. James 4:14 also reminds us that life is brief. This calls for faithful service, not frantic activity.

For women in every season of life—single, married, widowed, divorced, raising children, caring for grandchildren, serving in ministry, working outside the home, or carrying hidden burdens—this word matters. God is not calling us to be busy for the sake of busyness. He is calling us to be faithful, purposeful, and urgent about His kingdom.

1) Work While You Still Have Time

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

John 9:4-5; James 4:14; Matthew 9:37-38

GOING DEEPER EXPLANATION

Jesus said, "I must work... while it is day." That word "must" carries burden, purpose, and obedience. This was not optional work. It was assigned work.

James reminds us that our life is *"even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away"* (James 4:14). kept pressing this point: life is borrowed, time is a gift, and night is coming. That means there are some things we cannot afford to keep postponing.

The harvest is still plenteous, but the laborers are few. The church may be full on Sunday, but the kingdom needs workers, not just listeners. The sermon used the picture of a field of collard greens: a large harvest does not get gathered by wishful thinking. It takes laborers. In the same way, God's work does not move forward because we hope it will. It moves when faithful women say, "Lord, use me."

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR WOMEN

For women, procrastination can look spiritual on the outside and still be disobedience on the inside. It can sound like:

- "I'll apologize later."
- *"I'll deal with that hurt when I'm less busy."*
- *"I'll start praying seriously when life settles down."*
- "I'll serve after the children are grown."
- *"I'll get involved once I feel more confident."*

But time does not wait for us to feel ready.

- Wives: Work while it is day in your marriage by dealing honestly with tension instead of ignoring it. If something needs to be addressed, speak truth with gentleness before resentment hardens.

- Mothers: Do not postpone teaching your children God's word, repentance, prayer, and integrity. Little conversations now can shape their whole lives.
- Friends: If you know you have spoken harshly, been distant, or allowed offense to settle in, reach out and make things right.
- Church members: Don't just attend. Ask where you can serve, encourage, pray, give, and build.
- Mentors and sisters in Christ: If God has placed younger women in your path, speak, teach, and model the faith now—not later.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one "daytime" opportunity in your life that you have been treating like it will always be there?
2. Where do women most often delay obedience: in relationships, in prayer, in serving, in forgiving, or in speaking truth?
3. How does remembering that life is a vapor change the way you view your time, energy, and priorities?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week, identify one thing you have been putting off that God has already made clear. Make one step of obedience within 24 hours. That may be:

- sending the text,
- making the apology,
- scheduling the appointment,
- starting the Bible reading plan,
- joining the ministry,
- asking for help,
- or taking the first honest step toward healing.

Do not wait for the perfect moment. Work while it is day.

2) Do Your Work Unto the Lord, Not Unto People

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

Colossians 3:23-24; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Romans 12:1

GOING DEEPER EXPLANATION

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." — Colossians 3:23–24 (KJV)

reminded us that excellence is not perfection; it is faithfulness. That means God is not asking us to be flawless, but He is asking us to be true, steady, and obedient. He sees the motive behind the work.

The desire for approval can turn service into performance. Reflect honestly: am I serving from love for Christ, or trying to earn my worth through being needed? Faithful service can include a clear boundary and an honest request for help.

The sermon pictured a patchwork afghan made by many hands. Each woman may only have one small piece, but together those pieces become something useful, warm, and beautiful. That is how the body of Christ works. Small tasks still matter. Hidden service still matters. Faithful work still matters.

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR WOMEN

A woman can be busy and still not be faithful. She can be active in church and still be serving people's opinions instead of God's will.

- At home, share responsibilities fairly and serve with integrity. Talk honestly about the load you carry; serving the Lord does not require pretending you have no needs.
- If you are a mother, care for your children as stewardship, not as competition with other women.
- If you are a daughter, serve your family with honor, but do not become enslaved to unhealthy expectations.
- If you are a friend, do not serve friendship in a way that hides truth. Love enough to be honest, not just agreeable.
- If you are a ministry leader, teach, organize, visit, and follow through with a pure motive. Do not let a title replace prayer.
- If you are an employee, work with integrity even when nobody is watching.
- If you are a mentor, speak truth that helps younger women grow, even when the truth is not easy to hear.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what area are you most tempted to do things for people's approval instead of the Lord's pleasure?
2. What does faithful excellence look like in your home, workplace, ministry, or relationships this week?
3. Why is it dangerous to confuse being "busy" with being obedient?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Choose one responsibility you have been neglecting and complete it with excellence this week.

Examples:

- return a phone call you have avoided,
- clean up something that has been left undone,
- prepare with care for your Bible study group,
- follow through on a promise,
- or quietly serve in a needed place without needing recognition.

Do it heartily as unto the Lord.

3) Let the Word Shape Your Mind Through Meditation

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; Psalm 119:11; 2 Timothy 1:7

GOING DEEPER EXPLANATION

emphasized that reading the Bible is not enough. We must meditate in it day and night. Meditation is not emptying the mind; it is filling the mind with God's truth until it sinks deep into the heart.

He used the picture of marinating meat: when meat sits in the seasoning long enough, it becomes tender and flavorful. In the same way, when the Word of God is allowed to soak into our minds and hearts, it softens stubbornness, strengthens conviction, and gives us boldness.

Meditating on Scripture helps us weigh emotions, advice, and pressure in the light of God's truth. Being rooted does not mean never feeling afraid or overwhelmed; it means knowing where to turn.

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR WOMEN

Many women carry a lot in their minds:

- unfinished conversations,
- family pressure,
- grief,
- church hurt,
- comparison,
- financial stress,
- fear about the future,
- and the temptation to pretend everything is fine.

Meditation helps us process life through God's truth instead of through hidden pain.

- Wives: Meditate before responding to your husband in frustration. Ask, *"What does God's Word say about my tone, my spirit, and my willingness to seek peace?"*
- Mothers: Let Scripture shape how you correct your children. Do not discipline out of panic or embarrassment.
- Friends: Meditate on truth so you can tell the difference between healthy honesty and toxic gossip.
- Employees: When work is stressful, let Scripture steady your attitude and integrity.

The sermon also reminded us that a rooted saint does not flinch when challenged. If you know the Word, you can stand with humility and courage. You do not have to be loud, proud, or combative. You just have to be grounded.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What helps you meditate on Scripture instead of just reading it quickly and moving on?

2. What lie, fear, or emotional habit do you need the Word of God to reshape in you?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Pick one verse this week and meditate on it every day.

Suggested verses:

- John 9:4
- Matthew 6:33
- Proverbs 16:3
- Psalm 119:11

Write it down, pray over it, and ask:

- What is God saying?
- How should I obey?

Do not just read the Word. Let the Word read you.

Group Exercise

Priority Check and Prayer Pairs

Give each woman a sheet of paper or a journal page with three columns:

1. I’ve been putting this off

2. What is really in the way

3. My first step of obedience

Invite women to share one response with a partner if they wish. No one needs to disclose private details. Pray for the support, courage, and wisdom each person needs.

Encourage each woman to keep her answer practical and honest. This is not a time to perform. This is a time to tell the truth before God.

PRACTICAL TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENT

Seven-Day Kingdom Urgency Challenge

For the next seven days:

1. Start each day by reading John 9:4 out loud.

2. Ask God to show you one task, conversation, or act of obedience that should not be delayed.

3. Commit one thing each day unto the Lord with prayer before acting.

4. Spend five minutes meditating on one verse from the list above.

5. Refuse one distraction that steals time from prayer, the Word, or obedience.

6. Do one hidden act of service without announcing it.

7. Write down where you saw God help you overcome procrastination.

At the end of the week, ask yourself: Did I work while it is day?

LEADER NOTES

- Keep the conversation anchored in John 9:4. The goal is not simply time management; it is kingdom obedience.
- Distinguish avoidable delay from exhaustion, grief, and circumstances that require care. Challenge unfaithfulness with grace, and offer support where someone is struggling.
- Make space for women who are carrying grief, caregiving burdens, singleness, divorce recovery, infertility, widowhood, aging parents, or loneliness. Do not assume every delay is rebellion; sometimes it is exhaustion. Still, invite them to bring that honestly to the Lord.
- Emphasize burden: work while it is day, seek first the kingdom, commit your works to the Lord, and stay faithful.
- If women begin to share hurts about church relationships, guide them away from gossip and toward truth, reconciliation, prayer, and wisdom.
- Remind the group that doing nothing is not the same as resting, and being busy is not the same as being obedient.
- Preserve the tone of urgency without creating shame. The call is to repentance, order, and faithful action.
- Close each discussion point with hope: God gives grace for the next step.

CLOSING SUMMARY

Jesus said, *“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”* That word calls us to urgency, discipline, and focus. We do not have time to waste on distraction, pretending, gossip, resentment, or empty busyness.

The Lord is calling women to be women of truth—women who speak honestly, serve faithfully, meditate deeply on the Word, and seek the kingdom first. Whether you are a wife, mother, daughter, widow, single woman, church leader, employee, mentor, or friend, God has given you an assignment.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for Your Word. Forgive our delayed obedience, gossip, and misplaced priorities. Meet us in our grief and fear. Free us from trying to earn our worth through people's approval, and help us serve You faithfully today.

Lord, help the women in this group to seek first the kingdom of God and Your righteousness. Give wisdom to wives, strength to mothers, peace to daughters, courage to friends, humility to leaders, integrity to employees, and grace to all of us as sisters in Christ. Let Your Word sink deep into our hearts like seed in good ground. Make us women who meditate on the truth, obey the truth, and live the truth.

We pray for every burdened heart, every hurting relationship, every delayed assignment, and every weary soul. Heal, deliver, strengthen, and establish us. Make us faithful laborers in Your vineyard. And when our work is finished, let us hear You say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

In Jesus' name, amen.

MY NEXT FAITHFUL STEP

One action I will take:

When I will begin / who can help:

COUPLES SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Work While It Is Day

Going deeper from the message

John 9:4 · Scripture quotations KJV ·

For couples in the church family. Make room for each spouse to listen, speak, and identify a shared next step.

BIG IDEA

God calls believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us.

MEMORY VERSE • JOHN 9:4 • KJV

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

Suggested use: 60 minutes—opening and Scripture (10), teaching and selected questions (30), personal response (15), prayer (5). Choose the questions most useful to your group.

Main Scripture Text: John 9:4 (KJV)

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTION FOR COUPLES

What is one area in our marriage that we know needs attention now, but we have been putting off?

FOLLOW-UP QUESTION

What usually keeps us from dealing with it in a timely, godly way—fear, busyness, hurt, pride, exhaustion, or something else?

READ THE SCRIPTURE ALOUD

Invite one spouse to read John 9:4 aloud, then ask the other spouse to read it again slowly. As you read, listen for the urgency in Jesus’ words: “must,” “while it is day,” “night cometh.”

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

Before healing the man born blind, Jesus answers His disciples’ question about sin and suffering (John 9:1–7). He rejects their attempt to assign blame and points to the works of God. His words in verse 4 express the urgency of the Father’s mission; the healing follows in verses 6–7.

In context, the “day” represents the time and opportunity God gives for faithful work, and the “night” points to the coming end of opportunity. The sermon rightly pressed that this is not just about personal productivity—it is about spiritual responsibility. For couples, that means marriage itself is not a place to delay obedience. Love, forgiveness, prayer, leadership, service, parenting, stewardship, and intimacy all require intentional work while it is day.

1) Work While You Still Have Time

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

- John 9:4-5
- James 4:14
- Matthew 9:37-38

Jesus said there is a time to work and a time when no man can work. James reminds us that life is “even a vapour” that appeareth for a little time. Matthew shows that the harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few.

GOING DEEPER

kept saying, in effect, don’t wait until nighttime to do daytime work. That is true in marriage too. Some conversations cannot wait forever. Some wounds need repentance, not avoidance. Some decisions about children, money, intimacy, church involvement, or family priorities need prayerful action now, not someday.

A marriage can become stuck when both spouses keep saying, “We’ll talk about that later,” “We’ll get serious when life slows down,” or “This will fix itself.” Sometimes it will not. Jesus’ urgency in John 9:4 calls couples to live with the awareness that time is a gift, not a guarantee.

The sermon’s picture of a field of collard greens needing laborers fits marriage well: a strong home does not happen by accident. It takes labor. It takes both spouses showing up. It takes small, steady obedience. One person cannot carry every burden alone, and no couple can afford to treat their marriage like a hobby. It is kingdom work.

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR COUPLES AND MARRIAGES

- If there is tension, address it. Do not let resentment grow in silence.
- If forgiveness is needed, begin the process now. A delayed apology can become a deeper wound.
- If your family rhythm is off, reset it. Set a time for prayer, worship, check-ins, and planning.
- If parenting feels chaotic, make a plan together. Do not wait until the children are older to establish spiritual leadership.
- If finances are stressed, stop avoiding the numbers. Sit down together, pray, list income, bills, debt, and priorities.
- If intimacy has grown cold, do not ignore it. Talk honestly, pray together, and seek wise counsel if needed.

This is not about shaming struggling marriages. It is about refusing to let delay become a habit. Some couples are tired, hurt, or overwhelmed. The Lord knows that. But even in hard seasons, there are small works of obedience that can begin today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR MARRIAGE AND COMMUNICATION

1. What is one important marriage issue we have delayed dealing with, and why have we delayed it?
2. Where do we most need “daytime obedience” right now: communication, finances, parenting, forgiveness, prayer, or intimacy?

3. What would it look like for us to stop avoiding and start laboring together as a team?

PERSONAL APPLICATION FOR EACH SPOUSE

- Each spouse: Name one responsibility or conversation you have delayed. Explain what has made it difficult without blaming the other person.
- Together: Agree on one first step, who will do it, and when you will check in. Listen for what support each of you needs.

2) Do Your Work Unto the Lord, Not Unto People

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

- Colossians 3:23-24
- 1 Corinthians 4:2
- Romans 12:1

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;” — Colossians 3:23 (KJV) In marriage, this means serving Christ through honest, willing care for one another rather than keeping score.

GOING DEEPER

Colossians 3:23-24 lifts the perspective of ordinary work. In marriage, dishes, diapers, deadlines, bills, shuttle duty, caregiving, and late-night conversations can become acts of worship when done unto the Lord. The sermon reminded us that small tasks can be part of a larger purpose—like many pieces of an afghan coming together. A strong marriage is often built in those small, repeated acts of faithfulness.

The temptation in marriage is to begin serving with the wrong motive: “I’ll do my part when you do yours,” or “I’m tired of being the only one trying.” Those feelings are real, but they cannot become our lord. God calls us to faithfulness even when the other spouse is not perfect. That does not mean tolerating sin or ignoring harm. It means our obedience is not controlled by somebody else’s immaturity.

also said, “Your work can become a form of worship.” In marriage, that means the way you speak, clean, budget, parent, love, and forgive can all be offered to God.

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR COUPLES AND MARRIAGES

- Communication: Speak with the aim of building, not winning.
- Forgiveness: Do not keep a record of wrongs as a weapon in future arguments.
- Spiritual leadership: Pray aloud together, even if it feels awkward at first.
- Finances: Make stewardship a shared spiritual responsibility, not a secret burden.
- Serving together: Find one ministry or mercy opportunity you can do as a couple, even if it is small.

Faithfulness may look like:

- asking forgiveness quickly after a sharp word,
- praying over your children before bed,

- or choosing kindness in the middle of fatigue.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR MARRIAGE AND COMMUNICATION

1. In what ways are we sometimes serving for appearance instead of serving unto the Lord?
2. What does faithfulness look like in our home right now, not perfection—just faithfulness?
3. Where do we most need to shift from “my work” and “your work” to “our work before God”?

PERSONAL APPLICATION FOR EACH SPOUSE

- Each spouse: Choose one act of service that lightens the other’s load. Agree on a fair division of the ongoing responsibilities as well.
- Together: Thank one another for a specific act of care. Encouragement and honest conversation belong together.

3) Seek First What Matters Most

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

- Matthew 6:33
- Proverbs 16:3
- Proverbs 4:25-27

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” The sermon kept pressing that wisdom knows what comes first. Proverbs 16:3 says, *“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.”* Proverbs 4:25-27 calls us to keep our eyes straight ahead and ponder the path of our feet.

GOING DEEPER

This section of the sermon warned against distractions, misplaced priorities, and doing many things without doing the main thing. Couples can easily get busy with schedules, children, careers, and church activity while quietly neglecting the spiritual center of the marriage.

Seeking the kingdom first places parenting, money, intimacy, and conflict under Christ’s teaching. It does not remove every pressure, but it guides how you respond to those pressures together.

The sermon also said, *“Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.”* That matters for couples because many marital battles begin in the mind: assumptions, worries, suspicion, comparison, disappointment, and fear. When a couple commits their work to the Lord, God begins to establish their thinking. That means the home becomes less reactive and more anchored.

line, “One thing is needful,” from Mary and Martha, is especially important for couples. Marriage can become full of activity but thin on devotion. A home can be busy and still spiritually empty. The answer is not doing less for its own sake; the answer is putting first things first.

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR COUPLES AND MARRIAGES

- Set a regular time to pray together, even if it is brief.
- Decide together what “first things first” means for your family schedule.
- Before major decisions, ask: “Does this align with the kingdom?”

- Limit distractions that keep you from one another: constant scrolling, separate screens, or endless outside opinions.
- Do not let everyone else's urgency become your marriage's priority.
- If you are parenting, make sure children see that God and marriage are not competing priorities.

A couple seeking first the kingdom may look like this:

- reading one Scripture together before bed,
- discussing one budget decision before spending,
- Plan time for worship and spiritual growth together, allowing for health needs, caregiving, and work responsibilities.
- setting boundaries with relatives or friends who create drama,
- and returning to prayer before returning to the argument.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR MARRIAGE AND COMMUNICATION

1. What competes most with our time and attention as a couple?
2. How can we tell when our marriage is becoming busy but not spiritually healthy?
3. What would it look like for us to commit our works unto the Lord together this week?

PERSONAL APPLICATION FOR EACH SPOUSE

- Each spouse: Name one distraction you can reduce so your shared priorities have room to grow.
- Together: Protect time for prayer, honest conversation, rest, and shared responsibilities. Both spouses contribute to the peace of the home.

GROUP EXERCISE FOR COUPLES

"WORK WHILE IT IS DAY" MARRIAGE CHECK-IN

Give each couple 10–15 minutes to complete this together:

1. Name one thing we have delayed.

- A conversation?
- A budget meeting?
- An apology?
- A decision about parenting?
- A step toward healing intimacy?

2. Ask these three questions:

- What is God asking us to do now?
- What is one distraction we need to put down?
- What is one small act of obedience we can do in the next 48 hours?

3. Write one sentence of commitment:

- *"As a couple, we will _____ this week as unto the Lord."*

4. Pray over it together before leaving.

PRACTICAL TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENT FOR THE COUPLE

THE “DAYTIME WORK” ASSIGNMENT

This week, complete these three steps together:

1. One hard conversation. Have the conversation you have been postponing, but do it gently, honestly, and without interruptions.
2. One spiritual rhythm. Pray together at least three times this week, even if only for two minutes.
3. One shared act of service. Do one task together for your home, your children, your church, or someone in need.

Optional bonus: Put your finances, calendar, and one family concern on the table together and pray before you plan.

LEADER NOTES

- This lesson should be handled with warmth and wisdom. Some couples in the room may be thriving; others may be barely holding on.
- Do not force couples to disclose private pain. Invite, do not pressure.
- Be careful not to flatten the sermon into productivity talk. The issue is spiritual urgency, not mere busyness.
- Keep the focus on biblical obedience, not comparison.
- When discussing marriage roles, avoid harsh assumptions. Some homes are carrying illness, job loss, grief, infertility, blended-family strain, or past betrayal. Apply Scripture with tenderness.
- If a couple shares serious conflict, abuse, or crisis, encourage pastoral care and appropriate support beyond the group setting.
- Emphasize the sermon’s repeated burdens: work while it is day, seek first the kingdom, do not procrastinate, commit your works unto the Lord, and be faithful.

CLOSING SUMMARY

Let this week’s response be specific: listen well, share a responsibility, pray together, and keep one commitment. As a couple in the church family, consider one simple way to encourage another household without overloading your own.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, in the name of Jesus, we thank You for Your Word and for the reminder that we must work while it is day. Teach us as couples not to procrastinate on what matters most. Help husbands and wives to seek first the kingdom of God, to commit our works unto You, and to walk in wisdom, humility, and love.

Lord, strengthen marriages that are tired. Heal wounds that have been hidden. Give courage for hard conversations, grace for forgiveness, discipline for stewardship, tenderness in intimacy, and unity in parenting. Teach us how to serve one another as unto You, not unto people. Remove distractions, settle our minds, and establish our steps.

Make our homes places of prayer, peace, truth, and faithful labor. Let our work line up with our lifestyle, and let our lifestyle line up with Your Word. And when our day is done, may we hear You say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” In Jesus’ name, Amen.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING LESSON

Work While It Is Day

Going deeper from the message

John 9:4 · Scripture quotations KJV ·

For ministry leaders and teams. Use the lesson to connect spiritual preparation with clear responsibilities and faithful follow-through.

BIG IDEA

God calls believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us.

MEMORY VERSE • JOHN 9:4 • KJV

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

Main Scripture: John 9:4 (KJV)

Key Verse: *“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”* — John 9:4

SERMON RECAP

Jesus’ words declare purpose and obedience: “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day.” calls the church to respond to the opportunities God gives with faithful service, wise priorities, and care for one another.

This message kept coming back to one burden: we are not saved to sit still. We are saved to serve. We are not here to drift through church life, talk about what God can do, and then delay what He has already assigned. The labor is real. The harvest is great. The time is now.

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT FOR LEADERS

Before healing the man born blind, Jesus answers His disciples’ question about sin and suffering (John 9:1–7). He rejects their attempt to assign blame and points to the works of God. His words in verse 4 express the urgency of the Father’s mission; the healing follows in verses 6–7.

For your church leaders, purpose comes before a busy calendar. Ask what will help people hear the Word, receive care, and serve Christ faithfully. Assign work clearly and make room for the people doing it.

LEADERSHIP LESSON

A healthy church culture is built by people who understand that time is a gift, not a guarantee. Leaders must not merely inspire motion; they must model obedience, follow-through, and spiritual focus. When staff, ministry leaders, and volunteers understand that they are working unto the Lord, the whole house becomes more disciplined, more dependable, and more prepared to carry the burden of ministry.

1) Work While You Still Have Time

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

- John 9:4 — Jesus declares the urgency of His Father's work.
- James 4:14 — life is *"even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."*
- Matthew 9:37-38 — the harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few.

LEADERSHIP LESSON

Jesus does not permit leaders to live casually. "The night cometh" reminds us that opportunity does not last forever. Leaders must treat ministry tasks, spiritual conversations, corrective action, and team responsibilities with urgency. What can be done today should not be postponed until it becomes a crisis tomorrow.

picture of the field of collard greens still fits ministry leadership: a large harvest with too few laborers takes too long to gather. A church can be full on Sunday and still under-resourced in the work. It takes laborers, not spectators. It takes people who will work in the daytime.

MINISTRY APPLICATION

- Return calls and texts from members in a timely way, especially when there is a pastoral care need.
- Report ministry problems early instead of waiting until they become public trouble.
- Follow up on assignments before they go stale: guest follow-up, volunteer scheduling, benevolence needs, room setup, attendance reports.
- When you see a gap, do not assume "somebody else will handle it." Ask what needs to be done and step in.
- Train volunteers to understand that ministry delay can become ministry damage.

EXAMPLES IN MINISTRY

- A children's ministry leader notices a staffing shortage for Sunday and alerts leadership early instead of hoping it works out at the last minute.
- A deacon learns a member is hospitalized and communicates it the same day, not after several days have passed.
- A worship team member is running late and sends an honest message before the service starts, allowing the team to adjust with order and peace.
- A ministry director sees a conflict in the team and addresses it quickly before it affects the whole culture.

TEAM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where are we most tempted to delay in ministry: communication, preparation, correction, follow-up, or care?
2. What problems in our ministry could have been addressed earlier if someone had reported them sooner?
3. How do we teach volunteers that urgency is not panic, but stewardship?

4. What does it look like for our team to “work while it is day” in our current season?

PERSONAL LEADERSHIP REFLECTION

- What assignment have I been postponing that God has already placed in my hand?
- Am I responding quickly to the things God has made urgent, or am I putting them off because they are inconvenient?
- What ministry responsibility have I treated like it can wait, when really the time to act is now?

2) Do Your Work Unto the Lord, Not Unto People

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

- Colossians 3:23-24 — *“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”*
- 1 Corinthians 4:2 — *“it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”*
- Romans 12:1 — present your body “a living sacrifice” unto God.

LEADERSHIP LESSON

This sermon was plain: excellence is not perfection; it is faithfulness. God is looking for people whose work lines up with their life, and whose life lines up with His Word. Leaders must remind the team that ministry is not performance for applause. It is stewardship before God.

afghan illustration is fitting here. One person may only contribute a patch, but when everybody does their part, the whole becomes useful and beautiful. In the church, the unseen part matters as much as the visible part. Faithfulness is what makes the work hold together.

MINISTRY APPLICATION

- Do the small task with the same seriousness you would give a public task.
- Prepare the classroom, stage, sanctuary, outreach materials, or prayer list as unto the Lord.
- Show up ready, not just present. Bring your mind, your spirit, and your order.
- Help the church’s teaching, serving, and audio-visual teams name one task, one responsible person, and one realistic next step.
- Receive feedback with humility: listen, ask a clarifying question, and take responsibility for what needs to change.

EXAMPLES IN MINISTRY

- An usher does not just stand at the door; they greet people with warmth, clarity, and calm, helping create a holy and orderly atmosphere.
- A media volunteer checks equipment before service so the church does not lose momentum during worship or preaching.
- A Bible study teacher prepares Scripture, context, and prayerful notes instead of winging it.
- When plans need to change, weigh the feedback, communicate clearly, and support the team through the adjustment.
- A volunteer admits a mistake in schedule coverage instead of hiding it until someone else gets hurt.

TEAM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where does steady follow-through need to catch up with our abilities?
2. Are we more concerned with being seen as gifted, or being found faithful?
3. What ministry habit would change if we truly believed we were serving the Lord and not people?
4. How do we build a culture where people can admit mistakes and still grow?

PERSONAL LEADERSHIP REFLECTION

- Is my work steady enough that the Lord could call it faithful?
- Do I serve with a willing heart, or only when it is convenient?
- Am I doing ministry for attention, or unto the Lord?

3) Let the Word Shape Your Mind Through Meditation

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

- Joshua 1:8 — “meditate therein day and night.”
- Psalm 1:2 — the blessed man’s delight is “in the law of the LORD.”
- Psalm 119:11 — “Thy word have I hid in mine heart.”
- 2 Timothy 1:7 — God has not given “the spirit of fear.”

LEADERSHIP LESSON

gave a strong word: reading is not the same as meditating. Meditation is the Word staying with you until it gets in your heart, your mind, your soul, and your fibers. He compared it to marinating meat so it becomes tender and ready. That is leadership language. A leader cannot stay hard, shallow, defensive, and unprepared. The Word must soften us, strengthen us, and make us bold enough to stand on truth.

A rooted saint is not easily blown over. When the devil challenges truth, leaders must be able to answer from the Word, not from emotions, opinions, or social media noise.

MINISTRY APPLICATION

- Build a habit of meditating on one passage before you teach, lead, or serve.
- Pray over Scripture until it becomes more than information and starts becoming formation.
- Teach volunteers not just what to do, but why it matters biblically.
- When confronted, respond from Scripture rather than personal offense.
- Keep your private devotion strong enough to support your public leadership.

EXAMPLES IN MINISTRY

- A ministry leader who has meditated on Scripture can gently correct confusion without becoming harsh or defensive.
- A teacher preparing for youth or children’s ministry uses the Word in a way that is clear, memorable, and accurate.

- A counselor or care team volunteer uses God’s promises to speak hope instead of leaning on clichés.
- A leader facing pressure from a difficult member stands firm in truth without becoming arrogant.

TEAM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between reading the Bible and meditating on the Bible?
2. How does meditation help leaders respond to conflict with wisdom instead of impulse?
3. Where do we need more Word in our ministry—our meetings, our planning, our corrections, our prayers?
4. What would change if our team let the Word get deeper before we acted?

PERSONAL LEADERSHIP REFLECTION

- What passage have I been reading but not truly meditating on?
- Am I rooted enough in the Word to stand when challenged?
- Do I let God’s Word shape my response before I speak?

Leadership Practice Section

This message calls leaders to live with urgency, order, and spiritual discipline. The work of the church is too important to be handled carelessly.

Practice these habits this week:

- Encourage your team to give honest updates early instead of hiding issues.
- Ask every ministry volunteer to name one task they can complete with greater faithfulness.
- Build in five minutes of Scripture meditation before planning, meetings, or service.

Leadership Alignment Commitments

As a staff, ministry team, or volunteer team, we commit to:

1. Work while it is day and not waste the opportunities God has given us.
2. Seek first the kingdom of God before chasing convenience, image, or personal preference.
3. Do our work heartily as unto the Lord, not for applause, titles, or recognition.
4. Report problems early and speak truthfully before issues grow larger.
5. Receive correction with humility and stay teachable.
6. Protect the ministry culture from drama, laziness, gossip, distraction, and division.
7. Stay in our assignment and not drift into roles or arguments God never assigned to us.
8. Meditate on the Word until our leadership is shaped by Scripture and not feelings.
9. Seek prayer, accountability, and appropriate care when burdens affect our service; help one another

10. Remain faithful so our work and our walk line up with God’s Word.

Practical Team Exercise

“FIRST THINGS FIRST” MINISTRY RESET

As a team, name what is urgent, what has been delayed, and what can wait. Choose two realistic commitments for the coming week and record who will take each next step.

LEADER NOTES FOR TEACHING THE GUIDE

- Keep the tone pastoral, direct, and Scripture-centered. This sermon has a strong burden against delay, but the goal is not to shame people; it is to awaken them.
- Emphasize that urgency in ministry is not panic. It is stewardship. Jesus had a work to finish, and so do we.
- Do not soften the call to faithfulness. The sermon makes a clear distinction between being gifted and being faithful.
- Use burden naturally: “work while it is day,” *“excellence is not perfection, it’s faithfulness,”* “wisdom knows what comes first,” and “commit thy works unto the Lord.”
- Apply the truth to real church life: communication, volunteer follow-through, correction, reporting problems early, handling mistakes, responding to correction, and protecting the ministry culture.
- Use examples that fit your church: preparing a lesson, welcoming worshipers, supporting the audio-visual team, or following through on a member’s need. Ask the ministry leader what is actually needed before assigning new work.
- Keep the biblical balance: conviction without condemnation, urgency without chaos, correction without cruelty.

CLOSING SUMMARY

the church’s ministry is strengthened when leaders listen to Scripture, communicate clearly, and follow through. Name the work, share responsibility, and check on both the task and the person doing it.

Do the next faithful thing while it is day. Let service grow from devotion to Christ, and let the team see that devotion in how you lead.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for the opportunities You give your church. Forgive our delayed obedience and misplaced priorities. Help us seek Your kingdom first, communicate honestly, and serve with joy.

Root our leadership in Your Word. Give us humility to receive correction, wisdom to share responsibility, and compassion to care for one another. Establish our work for Your glory. In Jesus’ name, amen.

NEW BELIEVER DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Work While It Is Day

Going deeper from the message

John 9:1–7 ·

Carry the message into your week with this practical companion resource.

BIG IDEA

God calls believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us.

MEMORY VERSE · JOHN 9:4 · KJV

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

PURPOSE

Explore the source passage with a mentor and connect it to a simple habit of following Jesus. This lesson supports discipleship; it is not a complete introductory course.

READ AND OBSERVE

Read John 9:1–7 together, paying special attention to verse 4. Who is speaking? What problem is present? What does the passage show about Jesus?

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Jesus meets a man born blind. Instead of blaming the man or his parents, He points to the works of God and heals him. Jesus speaks of the urgency of His Father’s mission. We apply that urgency by using today’s opportunities to obey and serve.

A TRUTH FOR YOUR WALK

Jesus did the Father’s work, and we can take a faithful step with the opportunities God gives today.

READ ANOTHER PASSAGE

Read Ephesians 2:8–10. Salvation is God’s gift through faith, not a reward earned by working. Good works are the response of a life made new in Christ.

DISCUSS WITH YOUR MENTOR

1. What question did the disciples ask?

2. What did Jesus do for the man?

3. What good step can you take today?

4. How does trusting Christ shape this response?

PRACTICE FOR SEVEN DAYS

Spend a few minutes each day reading the passage and praying honestly. Choose one helpful or obedient step you have delayed and begin it today. Record one question to bring to your mentor.

MENTOR CHECK IN

Ask what the learner noticed, what remains unclear, and what help would make the next step possible. Listen before adding advice.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your compassion. Help us listen to Your Word, use today wisely, and serve with love. Amen.

7 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Work While It Is Day

Going deeper from the message

John 9:4 · Scripture quotations KJV ·

A week of reflection and practical response for the church family. Read one day at a time; carry its prayer and next step into your home, work, and service.

BIG IDEA

God calls believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us.

MEMORY VERSE • JOHN 9:4 • KJV

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

Day 1 | Use Today's Opportunity

SCRIPTURE

John 9:4 (KJV) — *"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."*

DAILY TRUTH

Jesus speaks with urgency before healing the man born blind. He is doing the Father's work while opportunity remains. For the church family, message brings a clear question: What faithful step is God calling me to take today?

Saved people are called to serve, build, and make disciples. Ask the urgent question: Am I using the time God gave me for His glory?

BIBLE ILLUSTRATION

In Matthew 9:37, Jesus sees a great harvest with few laborers. collard greens illustration makes that need plain: a full field needs willing hands. Faithful service begins when each person takes a part.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Where have you delayed obedience? Name a conversation, responsibility, or act of service. If you need support, ask for it. If you can begin, take one step today.

TODAY'S STEP

Write down one assignment you have been delaying and complete the first concrete step toward it before the day ends.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for another day of grace and another opportunity to obey You. Deliver me from procrastination, distraction, and spiritual laziness. Help me to work the works You have given me while it is day. Make me faithful with the time You have lent me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 2 | Serve the Lord Faithfully

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:23-24 (KJV) — *“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”*

DAILY TRUTH

Paul’s word in Colossians brings the work of the believer into the right frame. We do not serve for applause, titles, attention, or to be seen by people. We serve the Lord Christ. That changes everything. Excellence is not perfection; it is faithfulness. pressed this point hard: God cares about how we approach the work He has given us. If the motive is wrong, the service is reduced to performance. But when the motive is right, even the smallest task becomes worship.

This is why the sermon’s patchwork afghan illustration matters so much. One person may only have a small piece, but when every piece is sewn together, the whole blanket is made complete. Kingdom work often looks like that. One person prays. Another teaches. Another visits. Another gives. Another encourages. Another serves in the background. None of it is wasted when it is done unto the Lord.

BIBLE ILLUSTRATION

In Luke 7, a woman came to Jesus and washed His feet with her tears, wiping them with the hair of her head. Some looked at her and misread her actions, but Jesus saw worship. Her service was not about impressing the room; it was about honoring the Lord. That is the spirit Colossians 3 is calling us to. When the Lord is the audience, even humble service is holy.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Consider whether you only work well when someone is watching. Do you serve differently when your name is mentioned? Do you become lazy when there is no recognition? Do you complain about small tasks because they seem beneath you? Scripture calls you to heart-work. That means answering the phone with grace, teaching the class with preparation, cleaning with a willing spirit, giving with joy, and showing up with consistency. A believer’s work should not look better on Sunday than on Tuesday.

TODAY’S STEP

Do one hidden act of service today without telling anyone about it.

PRAYER

Father, purify my motives. Teach me to do everything heartily as unto You, not unto men. Keep me from serving for praise, and help me to serve with faithfulness. Let my work be worship, and let my life glorify Christ. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Day 3 | Let the Word Take Root

SCRIPTURE

Joshua 1:8 (KJV) — *“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”*

DAILY TRUTH

The sermon gave a strong picture of meditation: like meat marinating in sauce, the Word of God must sit in us until it softens what is hard and seasons what is plain. Reading the Bible is good, but meditation lets the Word get down into your spirit, into your fibers, into your responses. A saint who only skims Scripture will be easily shaken. But a saint who meditates becomes rooted.

God gave Joshua this command as he prepared to lead Israel. Meditation was tied to obeying God’s covenant instruction, not a formula for wealth or an easy life. We learn to return to Scripture until it shapes how we think, speak, and serve.

BIBLE ILLUSTRATION

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He did not answer Satan with emotion; He answered with Scripture: “It is written” (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10). He had the Word so deep in Him that it came out under pressure. That is what meditation produces. A rooted saint does not have to invent a defense when temptation comes. The Word rises up.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

If your Bible is closed more than it is open, your spirit will stay underfed. Meditate on one passage until it begins to shape your choices. Repeat it in the car, pray it over your family, write it on a card, and speak it when anxiety rises. If you are wrestling with bitterness, meditate on forgiveness. If you are discouraged, meditate on God’s faithfulness. If you need courage, meditate on His promises. Let the Word move from the page into your reactions.

TODAY’S STEP

Choose one verse and meditate on it three times today: morning, midday, and evening.

PRAYER

Lord, plant Your Word deep in me. Make me rooted, not shallow. Help me to meditate day and night so that my heart becomes tender to Your will and strong against the enemy. Let my thoughts be established by Your truth. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Day 4 | Seek the Kingdom First

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:33 (KJV) — *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

DAILY TRUTH

Wisdom knows what comes first. That was one of the clearest burdens of the sermon. So many people live backward: career first, image first, relationships first, entertainment first, and then God is expected to bless what He was never placed at the center of. But the kingdom of God must come first. First things first.

Jesus did not say to seek the kingdom after everything else is settled. He said seek it first. That means the believer orders life around God’s rule, God’s word, and God’s righteousness. When God is first, everything else finds its place. used the example of water satisfying thirst better than soda. That is because some things may taste good for a moment but do not truly satisfy. Only God can regulate the inner life. He can settle the mind, correct the desires, and keep priorities in order.

BIBLE ILLUSTRATION

In Luke 10:38–42, Martha welcomes Jesus but becomes distracted and troubled by much serving. Mary sits at His feet and hears His word. Jesus does not condemn hospitality; He calls Martha back to what is necessary. Let service flow from listening to Him.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Look at your week and ask what gets your first attention. If your first energy goes to your phone, social media, work emails, or other people’s crises, but not to God, then your priorities need to be reordered. Seek first can mean waking up ten minutes earlier to pray, turning off the phone during worship, attending Bible study instead of treating it as optional, or saying no to something good so you can say yes to what God has assigned.

TODAY’S STEP

Put God first in the first 15 minutes of your day tomorrow: prayer, Scripture, and surrender before anything else.

PRAYER

Father, help me seek Your kingdom first. Expose misplaced priorities in my life and teach me wisdom in my schedule, my spending, my relationships, and my decisions. Let Your righteousness shape my choices, and add what only You can provide. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Day 5 | Bring Your Need to Christ

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 3:13-14 (KJV) — *"...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

DAILY TRUTH

We can bring our wounds to Christ without pretending they are small. Faith calls us to keep turning toward Him, even when healing is slow. Where we have chosen avoidance or sin, we can repent; where we need support, we can ask for it.

The call to move forward is an invitation to trust Christ, not a demand to recover on a timetable. Pain, disability, grief, and exhaustion are not proof of spiritual failure. A faithful next step may be prayer, repentance, asking for help, receiving care, or taking needed rest.

Do not carry the burden alone. Let someone in the church family pray with you, and seek the care you need. The next step may be small, but it can still be faithful.

BIBLE ILLUSTRATION

In Mark 5:25–34, a woman who had suffered for twelve years reaches for Jesus' garment. Jesus heals her by His power and speaks peace to her. Her faith rests in Him; her persistence does not earn the healing. Bring your need to the same compassionate Savior.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Where do you need Christ's help today? Name the hurt honestly. Then distinguish a responsibility you are avoiding from a burden that requires support. Ask a trusted person to pray with you about one wise next step.

TODAY'S STEP

Take one concrete step out of spiritual stuckness: make the call, say the prayer, ask for help, or return to worship.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I refuse to remain defined by brokenness. Teach me to press toward the mark and not settle in defeat. Heal what is wounded in me, strengthen what is weak, and lead me forward in Your purpose. In Your name, amen.

Day 6 | Commit Your Work to God

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 16:3 (KJV) — *“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.”*

DAILY TRUTH

Commitment begins with surrender. Proverbs 16:3 calls us to entrust our work to the Lord. Bring Him the plans, habits, and responsibilities you have tried to control. Ask Him to correct what is wrong and establish what is faithful.

Putting your work under God’s rule means praying, *“Lord, this belongs to You. Order it. Correct it. Strengthen it. Use it.”* Let that surrender shape the ordinary decisions at home as well as the visible work at church.

Private integrity matters. Prayer, honesty, and discipline help our public service agree with our daily walk. Commit today’s decisions to the Lord before you ask Him to bless tomorrow’s plans.

BIBLE ILLUSTRATION

Nehemiah faced a massive rebuilding task, but he did not just feel burdened; he committed himself to the work. He prayed, planned, organized, and kept building despite opposition. The wall was not established by wishful thinking. It was established by committed labor under God’s hand. That is Proverbs 16:3 lived out.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Ask where your life is divided. Are you committed in public but careless in private? Faithful in church but weak at home? Loud in worship but lazy in prayer? Commit your works to the Lord by putting your calendar, your relationships, your money, and your habits under His authority. Let Him govern how you speak, how you spend, how you respond, and how you serve. Stability comes where surrender begins.

TODAY’S STEP

Pray over one specific area of your life and verbally commit it to the Lord today.

PRAYER

Father, I commit my works unto You. Establish my thoughts, my motives, my plans, and my steps. Heal what is unstable in me and make me faithful in the private places where character is formed. I want my life to line up with Your Word. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Day 7 | Put the Word into Practice

SCRIPTURE

James 1:22 (KJV) — *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”*

DAILY TRUTH

This final day brings the whole sermon home: God is calling us to be doers, not just hearers; workers, not just watchers; faithful servants, not just religious talkers. James warns that hearing without doing deceives us. That is why the sermon kept pushing beyond church attendance, beyond emotional moments, beyond titles, and beyond social media Christianity. The kingdom needs people who actually live the Word.

A doer may stumble, but grace leads that person back to obedience. We do not earn salvation by working; we serve because God has saved us by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8–10). Forgive, pray, give, study, and serve as a response to His gift.

BIBLE ILLUSTRATION

In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus described the wise man who heard His words and did them. When the storm came, that house stood because it was built on a rock. Hearing is good, but obedience is what makes the house stand. The same storm that exposed one house proved another. That is the difference between hearing and doing.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Do not let this week end with emotion only. Let it end with obedience. Confess what needs confessing. Make peace where possible. Return what should be returned. Change what needs changing. Speak words that build, not tear down. Serve where you can. Stay in the Word. Stop saying “one day” when God is saying “today.” Let your life become a response to His voice.

TODAY’S STEP

Choose one command of Scripture you have been hearing but not doing, and obey it before the day ends.

PRAYER

Lord, make me a doer of the Word. Deliver me from delay, deception, and divided living. Let my work, my worship, and my walk line up with Your truth. Help me live in such a way that when my day is done, I will hear You say, “Well done.” In Jesus’ name, amen.

Weekly Closing Challenge

your church, let this week become more than a good intention. Choose one act of obedience, name when you will do it, and ask someone to encourage you. Work while it is day. Seek God first. Keep taking the next faithful step.

MEMORY VERSE

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.” — John 9:4 (KJV)

PARENT TAKE HOME SHEET

Work While It Is Day

Going deeper from the message

John 9:1–7 ·

Carry the message into your week with this practical companion resource.

BIG IDEA

God calls believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us.

MEMORY VERSE · JOHN 9:4 · KJV

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

CHILDREN’S MEMORY VERSE EXCERPT

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day” — John 9:4 (KJV, excerpt)

PURPOSE

Continue the message at home in a short family conversation. Allow each child to answer without pressure.

READ TOGETHER

Read John 9:1–7 together, paying special attention to verse 4.

UNDERSTAND THE PASSAGE

Jesus meets a man born blind. Instead of blaming the man or his parents, He points to the works of God and heals him. Jesus speaks of the urgency of His Father's mission. We apply that urgency by using today's opportunities to obey and serve.

FAMILY TRUTH

Jesus did the Father's work, and we can take a faithful step with the opportunities God gives today.

TALK TOGETHER

1. What question did the disciples ask?

2. What did Jesus do for the man?

3. What good step can you take today?

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

Choose one helpful or obedient step you have delayed and begin it today. Let each family member choose an age-appropriate response. Check in at the end of the week and celebrate a faithful effort.

PRAY TOGETHER

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your compassion. Help us listen to Your Word, use today wisely, and serve with love. Amen.

FOR PARENTS

Model the response before asking your child to practice it. Listen for questions and make space for a child who needs extra help.

SERMON BASED BLOG POST

Work While It Is Day

Going deeper from the message

John 9:4 · Scripture quotations KJV ·

A reflection on message for the church family.

BIG IDEA

God calls believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us.

MEMORY VERSE · JOHN 9:4 · KJV

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.” — John 9:4 KJV

There are some things you can put off until tomorrow. But obedience to God is not one of them.

Jesus says, “I must.” There is purpose in that word. The Father’s work deserves a faithful response today.

And that word still speaks to the church today. Many believers love the idea of purpose, but struggle with procrastination. We mean well. We have good intentions. We talk about serving, growing, praying, giving, learning, forgiving, starting, finishing, and stepping out. But somehow the days keep passing, and too much remains undone.

For the church family, the question reaches beyond a full calendar: What responsibility are we avoiding, and where do we need help to move forward?

Time Is a Gift, Not a Guarantee

Before healing the man born blind, Jesus answers His disciples’ question about sin and suffering (John 9:1–7). He rejects their attempt to assign blame and points to the works of God. His words in verse 4 express the urgency of the Father’s mission; the healing follows in verses 6–7.

That’s why Scripture says, *“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour”* (James 4:14 KJV).

A vapor doesn’t stay long. It appears for a moment and then vanishes. That truth should sober us, but it should also move us. If God has given you breath today, then there is work to do today.

Some people keep waiting for a perfect season to obey God. They are waiting for more money, more confidence, more healing, more clarity, more time, more support. But the sermon’s burden was plain: work while you still have time.

The harvest is still plenteous, and the laborers are still few. Jesus said, *“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest”* (Matthew 9:37-38 KJV).

The church does not need more spectators. It needs laborers.

At your church, a next step might be returning to a morning prayer time, preparing for Bible study, asking a ministry leader where help is needed, or encouraging a neighbor in the local community. Start with one concrete act of faithfulness.

The point is not to stay busy. The point is to stay fruitful.

Do It Unto the Lord, Not Unto People

One of the strongest lines in the sermon was this: *“Excellence is not about perfection. It’s about faithfulness.”*

Too often we measure our service by whether people noticed, thanked us, or applauded us. But Colossians says:

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” — Colossians 3:23-24 KJV

Serving Christ steadies our motives when recognition is absent or people disappoint us. He sees the work others may overlook.

There are people who can do something well, but they are not faithful. They can sing, usher, teach, clean, or preach with skill, but their commitment comes and goes. God is looking for faithfulness. Paul said it this way: *“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful”* (1 Corinthians 4:2 KJV).

Faithfulness may look like doing the small thing well. It may look like showing up on time. Finishing the assignment. Keeping your word. Serving without needing recognition. Giving without complaining. Forgiving without replaying the offense. Doing the hidden work with a willing heart.

The sermon used the picture of a patchwork afghan—many hands, many pieces, one finished work. That is the church. We are not all the same, but each part matters. A small piece may not look like much by itself, but put it in the Master’s hand, and it becomes part of something beautiful.

Let the Word Get Into Your Fibers

A major burden in this message was not just that believers should work, but that they should be spiritually prepared to work. That means the Word cannot stay on the surface. It has to go deep.

described meditation like meat marinating—slowly tenderized, seasoned, changed from the inside out. That is exactly the idea behind biblical meditation. God does not merely want us to read a verse and move on. He wants His Word to settle into our minds, shape our decisions, and soften our hearts.

Psalm 1:2 (KJV) says, *“But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”*

The sermon reminded us that some trees survive storms because they are rooted. The same is true spiritually. A rooted believer is not easily moved by pressure, criticism, temptation, or confusion. When the Word is in you, the devil cannot easily shake you. When the Word is in you, you can answer with truth instead of emotion. When the Word is in you, you can stand boldly without becoming arrogant.

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” — Psalm 119:11 KJV

If you want to grow, do not just ask, “Did I read my Bible?” Ask, “Did I let the Word read me?”

Try this in real life: take one verse in the morning and keep returning to it during the day. Write it down. Pray it back to God. Ask what it reveals about Him, about you, and about your next obedient step. That is how the Word gets into your fibers.

Seek First What Matters Most

If procrastination is often a priority problem, then wisdom begins by putting first things first.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” — Matthew 6:33 KJV

Notice the order. Seek first the kingdom. Not after the money. Not after the relationship. Not after the promotion. Not after the crisis is over. First.

picture of thirst makes the point: something can be appealing for a moment without sustaining us. Let that illustration lead you to ask what is shaping your desires and what is helping you follow Christ.

That’s why life gets out of order when God is not first. People chase everything else and then wonder why they still feel empty. They chase attention, titles, relationships, entertainment, status, and distraction. But wisdom says, Start with God.

That does not mean you ignore your responsibilities. It means you place them in the right order.

Commit your work to Him. Proverbs says, *“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established”* (Proverbs 16:3 KJV). And again, *“Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee”* (Proverbs 4:25 KJV).

One of the most freeing things a believer can learn is this: not everything urgent deserves your attention.

Bring Your Need to Christ and Keep Growing

The sermon also dealt with something many Christians hide: brokenness.

The call to move forward is an invitation to trust Christ, not a demand to recover on a timetable. Pain, disability, grief, and exhaustion are not proof of spiritual failure. A faithful next step may be prayer, repentance, asking for help, receiving care, or taking needed rest.

That’s why the examples of the blind man and the woman with the issue of blood matter so much. Both were desperate. Both were pressed by need. Both refused to stay where they were.

In Luke 18:35–43, the blind man near Jericho keeps calling to Jesus for mercy. The emphasis is on the Savior who hears and heals, not on persistence as a way to earn a miracle.

Don’t confuse activity with purpose. Martha was busy, but Mary chose what was needful. Jesus said, *“But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her”* (Luke 10:42 KJV).

That is a strong word for believers who stay busy but never grow. You can be active and still be empty. You can serve with your hands and starve your soul. You can be around church work and still avoid Jesus.

Ask for prayer. Make the needed appointment. Have an honest conversation. Take the next wise step with Christ and with support.

What This Looks Like This Week

If the Lord is speaking through this message, here is where to start:

- Pick one responsibility you have been delaying and finish it this week.
- Put your phone away for a set time each day and read John 9:4 slowly.
- Pray over one passage until it settles in your heart.
- At church: Ask a your church ministry leader about one practical need you can help meet, and follow through on the commitment you make.
- Identify one distraction you need to say no to.
- Do one act of service quietly, without announcing it.
- Ask God to make you faithful, not just gifted.

Reflection Questions

- Where have I been procrastinating obedience?
- Am I giving God my best, or only what is left over?
- What distractions have been stealing my spiritual focus?
- Is the Word of God shaping my decisions, or am I still reacting from emotion?
- What does faithfulness look like in my home, church, and daily responsibilities?
- What is one step I can take today to press past brokenness and pursue God’s purpose?

Final Challenge

your church, today offers an opportunity to respond. Let the Word move from what we hear to how we live.

Work while it is day. Give the Lord your next faithful step.

So stop waiting for a better time. Seek Him first. Commit your works to Him. Let His Word get deep in you. Press past the broken places. And work while it is day.

Night is coming. But while it is day, there is still purpose, still grace, still work, and still opportunity.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for the gift of this day and for the mercy that has carried us through it. Forgive us for every delay, every distraction, and every time we have placed our own desires ahead of Your kingdom. Teach us to seek You first, to meditate on Your Word day and night, and to serve You with faithfulness and joy. Give us urgency without anxiety, discipline without pride, and obedience without excuses. Help us to work while it is day. In Jesus' name, amen.

SUNDAY BULLETIN CONTENT

Work While It Is Day

Going deeper from the message

John 9:1–7 ·

Carry the message into your week with this practical companion resource.

BIG IDEA

God calls believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us.

MEMORY VERSE · JOHN 9:4 · KJV

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Jesus meets a man born blind. Instead of blaming the man or his parents, He points to the works of God and heals him. Jesus speaks of the urgency of His Father’s mission. We apply that urgency by using today’s opportunities to obey and serve. Jesus did the Father’s work, and we can take a faithful step with the opportunities God gives today.

THIS WEEK’S PASSAGE

John 9:1–7

A QUESTION TO CARRY HOME

What good step can you take today?

YOUR NEXT STEP

Choose one helpful or obedient step you have delayed and begin it today.

SMALL GROUP INVITATION

Continue the conversation with your group this week. Bring your Bible, one honest question, and a willingness to encourage another person.

SHORT ANNOUNCEMENT

Sunday’s message continues throughout the week. Use the devotional and group resources to reflect on the passage and take a practical next step.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Ready-to-adapt bulletin copy. Add your actual group schedule, contact details, and registration link before publishing.

SOCIAL MEDIA REEL SCRIPTS

Work While It Is Day

Going deeper from the message

John 9:1–7 ·

Carry the message into your week with this practical companion resource.

BIG IDEA

God calls believers to overcome procrastination by seeking His kingdom first, working diligently while there is still time, and staying faithful to the assignment He has given us.

MEMORY VERSE • JOHN 9:4 • KJV

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

REEL 1 ABOUT 15 SECONDS

What good step have you been putting off? In John 9, Jesus used the opportunity before Him to do His Father’s work. Read the passage today, then take one faithful step.

ON SCREEN TEXT 1

Use today’s opportunity. Take one faithful step.

REEL 2 ABOUT 30 SECONDS

Jesus meets a man born blind. Instead of blaming the man or his parents, He points to the works of God and heals him. Jesus speaks of the urgency of His Father’s mission. We apply that urgency by using today’s opportunities to obey and serve. Jesus did the Father’s work, and we can take a faithful step with the opportunities God gives today. Choose one helpful or obedient step you have delayed and begin it today.

ON SCREEN TEXT 2

John 9:1–7

Read. Reflect. Respond.

REEL 3 ABOUT 30 SECONDS

Jesus’ disciples wanted to explain a man’s suffering. Jesus pointed them toward God’s work and showed compassion. Faithful service starts with people, not just a busy schedule. Who can you help this week?

CAPTION

Carry Sunday’s message into your week. Read John 9:1–7, talk about it with someone, and choose one practical response.

RECORDING NOTES

These scripts are adapted promotional copy, not verbatim sermon quotes. Speak naturally, use captions, and finish with your church’s actual resource link.