

BE THE ONE WHO WORKS HARD, BECAUSE



READ Colossians 3:23

Day 1

Have you ever gotten a teacher you thought was mean or too hard? Or maybe your soccer coach had to quit and the new coach isn't nearly as good. When our teachers and other adults in our lives don't seem to be doing a good job, it's easy to make excuses to not do a good job ourselves. Maybe you think no matter how hard you work, your teacher just isn't going to give you an A, or that your new soccer coach is playing favorites, so it doesn't really matter if you give it your all or not. But the person you are working for isn't your teacher, your coach, or even your parent; it's God! He gave His all when He gave us His Son, so we should work hard for Him!

What is the thing that you are tempted to give up on sometimes? (It could be a subject at school, a sport, a chore, or anything you have to work hard at.) Ever seen an athlete point their finger up to God, saying they did it for Him? Before you dive into that hard thing, take a second and quietly point your finger up to God, telling Him and yourself that you're doing this for Him.

THANK God for being the best boss there is, since you know how much He loves you.

READ Ephesians 6:7

Day 2

Back in Jesus' time on earth, many people were slaves or servants. Sometimes they were treated well, but many times they weren't. It must have been hard for them to work hard when they were mistreated and disrespected by their masters. Sometimes we can feel that way too—like our parents or teachers or other people in charge don't respect us or really see our hard work. But we need to remember that our true Master is God and He does see what we do (and our attitude too).

Think of a way you can go above and beyond in working hard this week. Can you volunteer to help your coach clean up after practice? Or do a chore that's not normally yours at home? Pick one thing and when you do it, come back to this page and put a big check mark in the box.

This week, I will: _____

ASK God to help you work hard, no matter if someone else notices or not.

GOD SEES YOUR HEART.

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READ Matthew 9:37

Day 3

When Jesus said the words in this verse to His disciples, He wasn't talking about a crop of grain or grapes. He was talking about how many people there were in the world that didn't know about Him and His good news. There were so many people who didn't know the truth about God's love, and not very many people telling others what God had done.

Earlier this week, you committed to do something above and beyond your normal work. When you do that, people may notice that you're working really hard. Will you be prepared to explain why? Take some time practicing how you would tell someone about God's love and why His love makes you want to work hard for Him. You can write it down, practice telling it to your favorite stuffed animal, or ask a parent to listen to you practice sharing your story.

LOOK for people in your life who don't know the good news about Jesus and pray for the courage and determination to share God's love with them.

READ 1 Corinthians 10:31

Day 4

Everything we do can be for God's glory—to make Him more famous and known than He already is. Take the chore you hate to do—maybe it's taking out the trash or cleaning the bathrooms, or homework for the subject in school you dislike most—even doing those can bring glory to God. How? If we have a good attitude and work hard to do a good job, it shows others how God has changed our lives.

Design a logo or a billboard ad that will remind you to do everything for God's glory. You could even use the computer. Make it bold and colorful. Include something about determination in it. Then stick it in your backpack or by the supplies for your least favorite chore to remind you that everything you do can be for God's glory.

KNOW that working hard brings glory to God.

GOD SEES YOUR HEART.