



LIFE Group Discussion Guide

May 31, 2026

Proverbs 6:6-11

CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

OPENING

What is a skill or habit you've learned that took discipline to develop?

Most people do not become lazy intentionally. More often, drift happens slowly—through neglect, delay, and small compromises. In Proverbs 6, Solomon points to an unlikely teacher—the ant—to show us something powerful about diligence, responsibility, and wisdom.

Today we'll explore how Godly wisdom calls us to disciplined living rather than careless drifting.

SCRIPTURE READING

Read **Proverbs 6:6–11** aloud together.

Ask the group to listen for:

- What the ant teaches
- What laziness looks like
- What consequences Solomon warns about

PASSAGE SUMMARY

Solomon uses the ant as a picture of wisdom:

- The ant works diligently without constant supervision.
- It prepares ahead for future needs.
- It acts responsibly and proactively.

In contrast, the “sluggard” represents not simply someone physically lazy, but someone careless, passive, and undisciplined.

Notice laziness is pictured not as rebellion, but as small patterns of neglect:

- “A little sleep...”
- “A little slumber...”
- “A little folding of the hands...”

The warning is that small compromises can produce significant consequences.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why do you think Solomon points us to an ant as a teacher of wisdom?

Because wisdom often appears in ordinary examples. The ant models initiative, diligence, and preparation in simple but powerful ways.

What qualities of the ant stand out most to you?

Initiative, consistency, preparation, self-discipline, responsibility

What does this passage teach us about laziness beyond simply avoiding hard work?

It addresses passivity, procrastination, neglect, and a lack of stewardship. Laziness is often deeper than inactivity—it can reflect spiritual drift.

Why does Solomon describe laziness in “little” increments (v.10)?

Because drift is often gradual. Major consequences often begin with small repeated choices.

In what areas can “a little neglect” become spiritually or practically dangerous?

Prayer and Scripture, marriage or family relationships, stewardship, ministry involvement, work responsibilities

Small neglect can grow into major weakness.

Verse 11 warns poverty comes like a robber. What principle is Solomon teaching?

Consequences often arrive unexpectedly but develop gradually. Neglect has a cost.

How does biblical diligence differ from unhealthy busyness or striving?

Diligence is faithful stewardship under God. Busyness may be frantic or self-driven. One flows from wisdom; the other can flow from anxiety or pride.

APPLICATION

Where in your life might “a little neglect” be quietly creating drift right now?

Encourage honest reflection in spiritual, relational, or practical areas.

What is one area where God may be calling you to greater diligence or discipline?

Invite concrete responses and specific next steps.

What small habit could you begin this week that would strengthen faithfulness over time?

Consistent prayer, daily Scripture reading, better stewardship of time, intentional encouragement of others

DIG DEEPER

Why do small acts of discipline often feel insignificant in the moment but prove powerful over time?

How can spiritual laziness show up even in outwardly busy people?

What is the relationship between diligence and trust in God?

How does the ant illustrate stewardship rather than self-sufficiency?

CLOSING THOUGHT

Laziness in Proverbs is not merely about work ethic. It is about drifting instead of living intentionally.

Ask:

Where am I drifting rather than being diligent?

What small act of faithfulness is God calling me to today?

Challenge the group:

Don't underestimate the power of small faithful habits. God often builds strong lives through ordinary daily discipline.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next week we will discuss **Proverbs 18:21** as we continue our series, *Uncommon Sense: God's Wisdom in a Foolish World*.

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God for His wisdom in teaching us through everyday examples.
- Ask Him to guard us from spiritual drift and careless neglect.
- Pray for diligence, faithfulness, and disciplined obedience.
- Pray specifically for the invitation portion of our worship services—that hearts will be open, the Spirit will move powerfully, and people will respond in obedience to Christ.

COMMENTARY

Proverbs 6:6-11

6:6. A slacker is a lazy person (26:14) who hopes to sustain his life without actually working (20:4; 21:25)—he literally refuses to lift a hand (19:24). He makes excuses not to work (22:13). Unlike the oppressed (31:9), the slacker has brought his poverty on himself and is not an object of pity. His opposite is a diligent person (13:4). As the son listens to his father admonishing the slacker, he himself is warned against laziness (19:25). A wise person learns from observation.

6:8. This verse describes harvester ants that store grain in their nests.

6:9. Asking how long generally implies that something bad has been going on for too long (1:22; cp. Ex 10:3; Ps 74:10).

6:11. Poverty in this context is destitution brought on oneself (13:18; 28:19). It is not the same as oppressed people who are poor because of circumstances beyond their control, and who deserve pity (19:17). The robber is literally a “traveler,” perhaps a vagabond or drifter. The bandit is literally a “man with a shield,” an armed man. His attack is sudden and unexpected.