

Practical Theology  
Labor & Leisure Study Questions

LABOR

What is its origin of labor / work?

What is the “curse of labor”? (Genesis 3) How does this curse affect your life?

What are your thoughts about each of the following passages of Scripture:

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11

Ecclesiastes 2:22-23

Ecclesiastes 6:7

Ecclesiastes 2:18-21

Psalm 90:10.

What is the blessing of labor?

What are your thoughts about Adam’s first work – Genesis 1:28-29; 2:19-20.

Do you agree or disagree with Solomon’s statements about labor in Ecclesiastes 2:24-25 & 3:10-13?  
Why or why not?

What should be done with those unwilling to work – 2 Thessalonians 3:10?

What labor did Jesus do while on earth:

While a child?

While living with His parents and siblings?

During His public ministry?

How did such labor affect him?

Who is your real boss? How does your work reflect that fact?

LEISURE

What is leisure?

How do you spend your leisure time?

What does the Bible teach about leisure?

Explain the Sabbath and any meaning it has for Christians.

What questions should be asked when evaluating any particular leisure activity?

What are the positive aspects to sports? What cautions need to be heeded in sports?

What are positive and negative aspects to games?

What cautions apply to edutainment games?

What cautions apply to Role Playing Games?

What cautions need to be heeded in entertainment choices?

What do you find offensive in entertainment? Why?

Can sin be justified by calling it “art”?

What should you do before being entertained to keep from being offended?

What are some godly things you can do during your leisure time?

What are your priorities in life?

What are the priorities God wants you to have?

How can leisure help you to keep those priorities?

### **Scenarios**

You are counseling a couple about their marriage. They are generally doing well. They have a nice home, the kids are reasonably well behaved and active in sports and clubs. The couple enjoys being together and looks forward to vacations. Her main complaint is that he works long hours often volunteering for overtime leaving little time for the family except on Sunday. He explains that he would like to be home with the family, but without the overtime they would not be able to afford their lifestyle. How can you help them with their understanding of labor and leisure so that they can achieve a better balance in life?

You are counseling a couple about their marriage. It is not going well. She says she feels she is always second to anything else he wants to do. He is either at work or involved in one of his hobbies. If he is home, he is watching sports. He says he works hard and deserves to be able to enjoy his hobbies. His complaint is that when he is home she is involved in one of her crafts and pays little attention to him. Meals are late or not prepared at all, so he grabs snacks and watches sports. He invites her to join him, but she always says she is too busy. How will a Biblical understanding of labor and leisure help them in their marriage?

You are asked for advice by a friend who feels stuck in his job. He no longer likes what he does. He feels his boss takes unfair advantage of him because he is diligent in his work. He wonders if he should just follow the example of his co-workers who take extended breaks and do quite a bit of personal things while on company time. How can you encourage him? What advice can you give him about options that may be open to him?

At a church social function you sit next to a young man who has been attending for awhile, but is not very involved. As you get to know him you learn that he is 28, works part time and lives at home with his parents. He has a college degree that gives him the potential for several good career paths. He says he would like to get married some day in the future, but he is not ready for that serious of a relationship yet. He knows about computer gamers who make a lot of money in competitions and he boasts that he is getting very good and thinks he may be able to be a serious competitor next year. Identify the issues in his life of which he seems to be ignorant. What advice could you give him to start him on a better path of life? What advice would you give to his parents if they were interested?

A man comes to your door looking for some help and asks for money for food and to buy some medication. By his looks it is obvious he needs more than a short term handout. You ask some questions and find out he is out of work. How can you help him without violating 2 Thessalonians 3:10?

A woman and her three young children start attending your church. By their clothing it is obvious that they are poor. You find out they periodically take advantage of the church's food pantry. What help could you offer in each of the following situations:

- 1) Her husband is severely disabled and a friend watches the kids so that she can work part time
- 2) Her husband is a drunk and cannot keep a job. She works part time as she is able if she can find someone to watch her kids.
- 3) Her husband is an addict and refuses to work. She has the kids in day care and works, but he takes her money to buy drugs.

Your friends ask you to join them in going to a see a movie the next day. You ask what the movie is about and what it is rated. They do not know but say they heard it was a good flick. You look up the movie reviews and find that while it could have an interesting plot line, it includes much foul language and sex scenes. What will you do? What should you tell your friends?

In talking with a friend he reveals some of his personal and career long term goals such as reading through the entire Bible, learning a language, and being able to move up into a management position or even start his own business. He says the problem is that he is already too busy to pursue them or the additional education or training necessary to achieve them. What questions would you ask to determine his current use of his time? What advice can you give him about how to make changes in his life in order to achieve his long term goals?

You have moved into a new area and have found a church that seems to be good, but suspicions are aroused at Christmas time when a full size cardboard cut out of Buddy the Elf is set up in the foyer. You also notice that the teens are usually in room to the side of the foyer playing a game of some sort. Out of curiosity one Sunday morning you go over and ask the teens what they are playing and find out it is Dungeons and Dragons. What should be your response?

You take the matter to the pastor who initially shares your concern, but when it comes before the Elders, several of them defend the teens playing the game and reveal that they sometimes play it with them. What should be your response?