

## A Human Mess

### ***Introduction***

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

Steady, earnest, attentive pursuit of the things for which we are responsible, that is our goal. In other words, we are to be diligent in all things, but especially for those things that fall under our care. It does not matter how nice we are, how friendly we are, if we fail to be diligent in our work and responsibilities. A lack of diligence causes many problems for us and for others. And these problems grow over time as Jake in the following example finds out.

### ***The Scripture***

Read the Scripture to the group.

*“I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: so shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.”* —Proverbs 24:30-34

### ***A Real Life Example***

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

## A Human Mess

Jake was a nice, likable boy. He had lots of friends and always had a smile for everyone. He enjoyed talking and playing with his brothers and sisters. In fact, it seemed that Jake was always doing one or the other. He also was the last to get up in the mornings, and spent lots of time just laying around and reading. However, Jake was beginning to have some big problems. Dad was continually reminding him to finish his jobs, and he had even been punished a few times for leaving them undone. It seemed that his Mom was becoming more and more upset with him because his room was always a mess. In fact, his room was a disaster! He never could find things when he wanted them. His homework was usually only half-finished. His library books were late. His life was a mess!

### ***Questions for Discussion***

1. What instruction could be received by someone who saw Jake’s room?
2. Why did Jake’s room look like the field of the slothful?
3. What do you think was causing Jake’s problems?

4. Are being slothful, fooling around, playing, and talking too much all basically the same thing? Why?
5. Describe what Jake’s room might look like if he was a diligent boy?
6. Why does a diligent person actually experience a greater personal happiness than a slothful person?
7. Although our Bible verses tell about a man who loves sleep too much, and who is lazy, why would you think that slothful, lazy people probably don’t get too much done with the rest of their day?
8. Why do slothful, lazy people wind up, more or less, to be poor?
9. How can we take instruction by observing the life of others?

### ***Conclusion and Resolution***

Read the Scripture again. Read or explain the conclusion in your own words. Ask the group to suggest what specific changes that they can resolve to make in their daily lives that will help them to implement needed changes in this area. Ask them to especially consider things they have learned in the Bible to use as scriptural guideposts to a more competent and productive life.

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If we do not want to experience “want,” we need to become diligent about the seeming little things of life. We need to get up in the morning. We need to pick the weeds. We need to work to provide for ourselves. And this applies to the spiritual side of life as well. If we do not want to be spiritually lacking, we need to be diligent about reading our Bibles, memorizing Scripture, praying, and obeying God in the little things of life as well as the big.

### ***Teacher’s Notes***

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