

Help your children conquer laziness

How to use this sample chapter from *Plants Grown Up*

Identify

Which level is appropriate for your child?

Age 4-9: Beginner

Age 10-14: Intermediate

Age 15+: Advanced

Choose

Skim the ideas in the age-appropriate section.

Circle or highlight 2 or 3 projects you will use.*

Schedule

Plan when you'll do each project and add them to your family calendar or school plan.

Disciple

Follow your plan and:

- ✓ Spend regular time with your children focusing on what's important.
- ✓ Grow your relationship with them
- ✓ Grow their relationship with God
- ✓ Prepare them for godly adulthood

* Look for projects that interest you or meet a need for your children. All projects are optional, including those involving additional resources. Just choose what works for you!

Self Control: Conquering Laziness

“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel” (1 Timothy 5:8).

Laziness is a true enemy to a productive, obedient life of service to God. God has put us on earth for a purpose. We are to subdue the earth and take dominion. That takes work. We can't be lazy followers of Christ.

A boy needs to take hold of this mission, and understand the dominion mandate that he has been given. With an understanding of the mission God has given him, and a vision for your family's particular mission, he can be a powerful influence, even as a young boy.

Besides wasting many potentially productive years in his youth, a lazy boy will most likely become a lazy, undisciplined man that wastes much of his adulthood as well. His parents and siblings will suffer with him while he is a boy. His future family will suffer with him as a husband and father.

Laziness leads to poverty. Slothfulness in spiritual things will lead to poverty of the soul, and laziness in physical things will result in financial poverty. A lazy person only does what he **feels** like doing. As the leaders of their future families, and as servants to potential employers, our sons will be called on over and over again to be faithful in duties that they will not always **feel** like doing.

So our job is an important one. We must be faithful (and not lazy) in driving any slothful spirit out of our sons. We must give them plenty of opportunities to work, and we must be diligent in training them to work whole-heartedly and “unto the Lord,” because they are ultimately serving the Lord Jesus, and He is glorified when we give our best.

A. Select verses from the list below, and use some or all of the following suggestions to help you study and better understand their meaning (easier verses are listed first, in italics):

- 1) Copy the passage.
- 2) Read it in several different translations of the Bible.
- 3) Read the passage and several of the verses before and after it to gain a better understanding of the context of the passage.
- 4) Rewrite the passage in your own words. What does it mean?

- 5) Record a specific way in which you can change your actions or attitudes based on the teaching of this passage.
- 6) Memorize the passage.

[Proverbs 10:26](#)

[Proverbs 14:23](#)

[Proverbs 18:9](#)

[Proverbs 21:17](#)

[Proverbs 22:29](#)

[Proverbs 27:1](#)

[Proverbs 28:19](#)

[1 Corinthians 4:2](#)

[Philippians 4:13](#)

[Ecclesiastes 10:18](#)

[Colossians 3:22-23](#)

(BIBLE / SPEECH)

Beginner

- B.** Dramatize the following proverbs with your family. If you can, act it out for another family or friends and see if they can guess which proverb you are acting out.

Proverbs 10:26

Proverbs 26:13

Proverbs 12:27

Proverbs 26:14

Proverbs 13:4

Proverbs 26:15

Proverbs 21:25

Proverbs 26:16

(BIBLE / DRAMA)

- C.** Illustrate the following proverbs. Write the chapter number in the corner of the page, but not the verse. Put them together in a book and give to other people. See if they can identify which proverb each illustration represents as they read through the correct chapter of Proverbs.

Proverbs 12:24

Proverbs 20:4

Proverbs 15:19

Proverbs 22:13

Proverbs 18:9

Proverbs 24:30-34

Proverbs 19:24

(BIBLE / ART)

- D.** Get up each day by a certain time, whether you feel like it or not. Get up as soon as your parents wake you, or set an alarm. (TIME MANAGEMENT)
- E.** Do at least one thing that you don't want to do each day.

- F.** Raise a pet or livestock. Take full responsibility for the care and feeding of your animal(s). Do not expect anyone else to do your chores for you. *(ANIMAL HUSBANDRY)*
- G.** Read with your parents Chapter 58, “God’s Children Work” in [Leading Little Ones to God](#), by Marian Schoolland. *(BIBLE / READING)*
- H.** Read with your parents the Fourth Commandment in Exodus 20:8-11. How many days did it take God to create the world? What did He do when He was finished? How many days of the week are we supposed to work? How many days do we rest? *(BIBLE)*
- I.** Ask one of your parents to help you make a daily checklist. List each regular task or activity you do each day, make columns for each day of the week, and check off each task when complete. *(TIME MANAGEMENT)*
- J.** Do at least two jobs that are not required of you today. Pick jobs that will make someone else’s day easier for them.
- K.** Work for pay on extra jobs around the house. Ask your parents to pay you if you do a good job, and to make you their slave (to work more without pay) if you do a slothful job. *(BUSINESS ED. / FINANCES)*
- L.** With your parents or older siblings, volunteer to help another family move, or help with some other group project. Be sure to do your share of the work and more! *(COMMUNITY SERVICE)*

Intermediate

- M.** Study Ephesians 5:16. Read some commentaries on this verse. What does it mean to “redeem the time”? Why should we? What changes can you make to better redeem the time? Make a list and use it to help you improve. *(BIBLE)*
- N.** Establish a regular daily schedule to help you be more diligent with your time. Write it down and post it in your room. *(WRITING / MATH)*
- O.** Read Proverbs 6:6-11. Then study ants. Set up an ant colony to observe. Read all you can about ants. Write or give an oral report about ants. What can you learn from the ants that will affect the way you work? *(BIOLOGY / BIBLE / SPEECH / ENGLISH COMPOSITION)*
- P.** With your parents, go through [The Go-to-the-Ant Chart](#) from Doorposts. Write down specific goals to work on after you have finished studying it. *(BIBLE / WRITING / ART)*

- Q.** Watch your father. Write down each task he performs throughout the day. (You may need to ask him to tell you about his time at work.) How does his diligence bless you and your family? Thank him for his labors. *(FAMILY)*
- R.** Volunteer to take responsibility for at least one of the jobs your father normally does each day. Designate a specific time for doing the job so that you don't forget. *(HOME SKILLS, ETC.)*
- S.** Ask your parents to hire you for extra jobs around the house or at your father's place of business. Work hard and get paid. Be lazy and get fired!
(BUSINESS ED. / FINANCES / HOME SKILLS)
- T.** Read Ephesians 5:8-10. How are we saved? Why are we saved? Are you accomplishing the work that God has prepared for you to do? *(BIBLE)*
- U.** Make a list of the chores and responsibilities you will commit to finishing each day before spending time in leisure activities. Post it on a wall near the toy shelves, computer, TV, or other recreational areas. *(TIME MANAGEMENT)*
- V.** If you play computer games or watch television, set a time limit for yourself or limit your time to what your parents have established. Put a timer in the area and set it when you start. Quit when it goes off. *(TIME MANAGEMENT)*
- W.** Ask your parents to list the areas in which they see a lack of diligence in your life. Ask them if they think you are investing time in activities that are not worthwhile. Work together on a plan to help you grow in diligence. *(TIME MANAGEMENT)*
- X.** Start the day with a list of the specific tasks you need to complete. Note times, when appropriate. Check each job off of your list as you complete it. Take satisfaction in reviewing your list of completed jobs at the end of the day, and carry any that are unfinished to tomorrow's list. Make this a habit each day, and notice how much more you get done. *(WRITING / TIME MANAGEMENT)*
- Y.** Pay for your own clothes after a certain age. Earn the money to pay for them, and shop for bargains. *(FINANCES / CONSUMER ED. / MATH)*
- Z.** Study Ephesians 4:28. What are we supposed to do instead of stealing? Why? If we don't work, what will we be tempted to do? *(BIBLE)*
- AA.** Study Chapter 7, "Diligence," in [*Christian Character*](#), by Gary Maldaner.
(BIBLE)
- BB.** Read Genesis 1:27-28. What did God tell Adam to do after he created him? Study the term "take dominion." Use a concordance and commentaries to

help you. What does it mean? How do we do it? Discuss this with your parents. *(BIBLE)*

CC. Study faithful men from history who had to be diligent to succeed in their fields: inventors, athletes, musicians, soldiers, etc. Write a report on each man you study. *(HISTORY / SCIENCE / P.E. / MUSIC / ART / ETC.)*

DD. Study faithful, diligent men in the Bible: Joseph, Nehemiah, Jacob, Daniel. How did God use each of them? How did they affect others around them? What obstacles did they face? Recount at least one of the stories for your family at the meal table. Discuss the blessings of their diligence. *(BIBLE / WRITING)*

EE. Study in the Bible what happens to the lazy man. List each verse you find and what it says. Start by looking up “Laziness” in [For Instruction in Righteousness](#), by Pam Forster, or look up the terms “slothfulness” and “idleness” in [Nave’s Topical Bible](#). Summarize your findings. *(BIBLE / RESEARCH / WRITING)*

FF. Study what the Bible says about the rewards of diligence. Write down each Bible reference, and what the verse says about diligence. Start by looking up “Laziness” in [For Instruction in Righteousness](#), by Pam Forster, or look up the terms “industry” and “diligence” in [Nave’s Topical Bible](#). Summarize your findings. *(BIBLE / RESEARCH / WRITING)*

GG. Ask your parents to grant you full responsibility over an area in your household. You should be totally responsible without any reminders. Enjoy the blessings of diligence, or the cursings of laziness. *(FAMILY / HOME SKILLS)*

HH. Write an essay on Proverbs 10:26. How can a lazy person be like vinegar on our teeth and smoke in our eyes? Use commentaries to help you study, and give specific examples. *(BIBLE / ENGLISH COMPOSITION)*

II. Read with your father [Created for Work: Practical insights for Young Men](#), by Bob Schulz. Try to read at least one section each day together, and discuss the questions at the end of each section. *(READING)*

JJ. Interview business owners and managers of businesses. What are they looking for in their employees? What qualities are most valuable to them? Write a report of your findings. *(BUSINESS ED. / SPEECH / WRITING)*

Advanced

KK. A system for organizing your time may help you use it more wisely. Research different time management systems. Look at different types of planners, calendars, and electronic organizers at an office supply store or online. What style do you like best? How much space do you want for each day’s notes?

What size will work best for you? What is most practical and most affordable? Buy a system you can afford, and start using it every day. (RESEARCH / TIME

MANAGEMENT)

LL. Read [*Redeeming the Time*](#), by Steven Maxwell. Discuss with your father Chapter 2, “Whose Time Is It?,” Chapter 3, “Vision,” and Chapter 12, “Prune Out the Time Robbers.”

- Discuss your father’s vision for your family.
- Write your own vision statement.
- Make a list of “time robbers” in your life, and a plan for eliminating them.

(READING / TIME MANAGEMENT)

MM. Study 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Study the words “price” and “glorify” using [*Strong’s Concordance*](#). Study other verses that use these same words. (For further instruction on how to perform word studies, see various teaching resources in “Bible Skills, pages 125-131.) Why should we glorify God with our bodies and spirits? How can we do this? Write a paper outlining what you have learned in your study and how you can practically apply these verses.

(BIBLE)

NN. Read Chapter 12, “The Discipline of Work,” in [*Discipline: The Glad Surrender*](#), by Elisabeth Elliot. Discuss it with your father, and read the rest of the book if you haven’t already. (READING)

OO. What things are you **not** doing that you know God wants you to do? What is keeping you from doing them? Make a list. Then review the list. Are any of the reasons legitimate? What can you quit doing to make more time for the things you need to do? Commit to putting those things aside. (TIME MANAGEMENT)

PP. Read Chapter 12, “The Discipline of Work,” in [*Disciplines of a Godly Man*](#), by R. Kent Hughes, and complete the activities at the end of the chapter. Read the rest of the book about manly disciplines if you haven’t already. (READING)

QQ. Read [*God at Work: Your Christian Vocation in All of Life*](#), by Gene Edward Veith. Outline each chapter and discuss the book with your father. How does God minister to others? Why does our work matter? What are your different callings, and are you diligently fulfilling each of them? (READING)

RR. Read [*Manly Dominion*](#), by Mark Chanski. If possible, organize a book study group. Read a chapter each week and discuss what you have learned and what you can apply. (READING / SOCIAL SKILLS)

SS. Hire brothers or sisters to do a job for you. Tell them you will pay them all the same, no matter what they do. (Remember, you can pay them with something besides money.) How hard does everyone work? Hire them for another job, and pay them according to how much of the job they complete. Do they work differently this time? Write a short essay explaining why this happens. How does this relate to economics throughout history? *(BUSINESS ED. / GOVERNMENT / HISTORY)*

TT. Commit to some sort of regularly scheduled volunteer work. *(COMMUNITY SERVICE)*

Additional ideas:

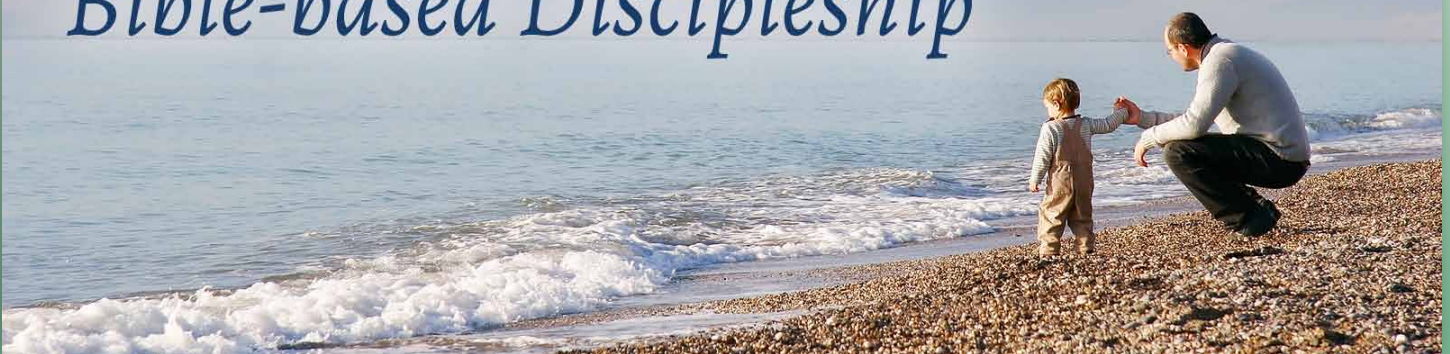
Parents:

Evaluate your son in the following areas:

- Does he have a sense of purpose in life?
- Does he have clearly defined goals that he works diligently to reach?
- Does he cheerfully work toward fulfilling the goals of your family?
- Does he generally do his best?
- Does he not abandon a task until it is completely finished?
- Does he work well when no one is watching?
- Does he work hard, even when he knows there will be no pay or tangible reward for his labor?
- Does he perform the tasks he is responsible for without someone telling him to do so?
- Does he put his things away when finished with them, or when he won't be using them for a period of time?
- Does he check over his work to make sure it is complete before reporting to the person who assigned the task?
- Does he take good care of his belongings?
- Is he careless in his work?
- Does he waste time?
- Does he procrastinate?
- Does he quit when a job becomes boring or difficult?
- Does he complain about the work he is given?
- Does he make excuses for not starting a task?
- Does he make excuses for his unfinished work?
- Does he get easily distracted from his work?
- Does he talk more than he works when given a task to complete?
- Is he lazy about putting away clothes and keeping his room clean and orderly?

Notes and comments:

Have a Plan for Consistent, Bible-based Discipleship



In just a few years, your children will be grown. Your little disciples will soon be independent young men and women, making their own choices and impacting the world in their own way.

We share your desire to raise children who will know, love, and serve God all their lives.

We know it's challenging. Distractions abound. Time flies. We raised three boys and three girls, now ages 23-32.

When our children were young, we knew we needed a plan for discipleship, or life's busyness would keep distracting us from our real priorities.

We knew that, with God's help, this goal was attainable, and that God's Word would help us achieve it.

That's why we wrote (and used!) *Plants Grown Up* and *Polished Cornerstones*. And that's why we want to share these helpful resources with you.

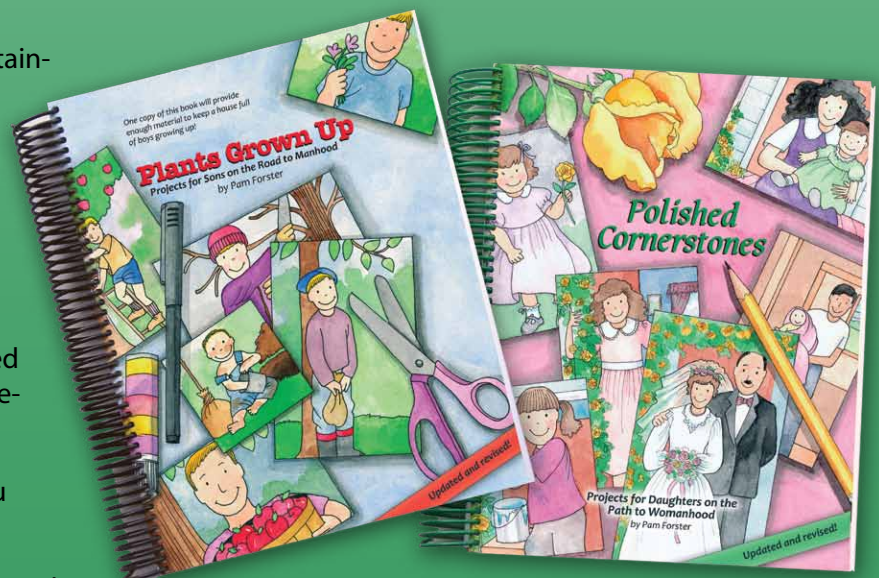
Having practical, Bible-based ideas, all organized in one place, helps you make consistent discipleship a reality:

- **Identify** one of the 30+ character traits you want to develop in your children
- **Choose** one or more projects, Bible studies, and other activities that fit your needs
- **Do** the activities with your children, or make them part of your school plan
- **Repeat** until all your children are grown!

Through September 7, 2016 you can save \$9 each on these discipleship tools for your sons and daughters.

"Doorposts materials have given us organized, practical, and doable tools to raise our children (and ourselves) in godliness. The encouragement from Pam and her family are invaluable." - Stacy

"I love that all your guidance is encouraging, Christ centered and brings all things in raising a family back to Christ." - Noelle



Have a plan - Order now