Dear Parents,

A new study says kids today are more materialistic, they want more than any generation before, and they’re less likely to work and study hard for the things they want. We want our children to be responsible, to work hard. In order for them to be responsible, we must give them responsibilities. How do we teach them to be hard workers, and that hard work matters? Check out video below to see how to get your kid to do more than play Wii.

<https://vimeo.com/parentministry/review/109290185/994e8cc62d>

W-O-R-K is not a bad four-letter word, but many kids act like it is. They moan and groan and act like it’s the end of the world when we ask them to do something. There might even be dramatic eye rolling! How do we raise them so they understand the value of hard work?

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 gives great Biblical perspective on the idea of idleness. Paul can be a brutally blunt guy at times, and in verse 10 of 2 Thessalonians 3 he says, “ *If anyone isn’t willing to work, he shouldn’t eat*.” Now that’s pretty drastic, but it illustrates the point that being a hard worker is important to God. It can be tough to teach our kiddos a strong work ethic, moving them beyond their cartoons and video screens to engaging in helpful, meaningful ways. It starts at home. In order for children to be responsible we must give them responsibilities to manage. Here are a few ways to communicate responsibility to your child:

1) Be a role model. Do I skip work because I feel like it, or give my all to a project? Do spend within my means, or blow the budget and stick it all on the credit card. Do I keep my word, or keep delaying things that need to be dealt with? They are watching and learning. Be diligent to give them a good example.

2) Don’t continually bail kids out of their responsibilities. They have to eat school lunch if they forget their lunchbox. If you have to pick up their toys, you get to keep them (until they’ve proven responsibility and can have them back – google “*chores ransom box*” and a lot of ideas will pop up).

3) Give checklists. Kids can get overwhelmed with a verbal to-do list. Write out what you want them to do so they can mark through their accomplishments. Pictures can help for younger kiddos. There are so many ideas online for to-do lists, chore lists, visual steps lists. Let me know if you need help finding or making one for you kiddo!

Building Young Disciples,

Pastor Sarah