

WORK ETHIC

Working Hard Brings Inner Satisfaction Every Day

“All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.”
– Proverbs 14:23

LESSON ON VIDEO

Directions: The following fill-in-the-blank section corresponds with a short video from John Maxwell. Watch the video and follow along with the outline. Click [HERE](#) to watch the video for this lesson.

Everything Worthwhile is Uphill!

Four Keys to Developing Good Work Ethic:

1. Turn your _____ into _____.
2. Take _____ for your work.

“Men do less than they ought, unless they do all that they can.” - Thomas Carlyle

“The average person puts only 25% of his energy into his work. The world takes off its hat to those who puts in more than 55% of their capacity, and it stands on its head for those few souls who devote 100%.” - Andrew Carnegie.

3. Develop greater _____.

With consistency, you become more valuable with time.

4. Learn to _____ your job.

A government study found that the number-one factor that contributed to long life was work satisfaction. People who enjoy their work tend to live longer and happier lives.

“If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, ‘Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.’”
– Martin Luther King, Jr.

What action step did you commit to last week? What were the results?

INSIGHT

Directions: Take turns reading the paragraphs below. As you read, underline the ideas that capture your attention.

What does it mean to be a hard worker? It means more than just doing your job. Many people give their jobs some effort, but not their best effort. Hard workers give their work their best effort every day. They take pride in their work and look for ways to do it even better.

Hard work is an important value because it is a key component of success. Talent is good. Skills are valuable. But hard work takes them to the next level, which will not only bring you success. It will also give you deep inner satisfaction.

Here are some key ideas about hard work:

Recognize that You Are Your Most Important Boss. The average person works only as hard as the job or boss demands. But people who believe in working hard demand more of themselves and take pride in their work. Seeing yourself as your own boss is the key. Striving for excellence and giving your best helps you to take pride in your work and leaves you with a deep sense of inner satisfaction.

Work Harder Than Required. John C. Maxwell tells the story of the advice he gave his nephew Troy, who was starting his first job after graduating from university. John encouraged him to do three things: First, work a little bit longer than he had to by arriving at work thirty minutes early, taking less time than allowed to eat lunch, and staying thirty minutes later at the end of the day. Second, do something every day to help his colleagues without being asked. And third, tell the boss that he was available to do extra work any time he was needed. By following this advice, Troy advanced rapidly in the company.

Do the Difficult Tasks Others Avoid. Who do others look to when times get tough? Who do they rely on? The person who repeatedly gets things done. You can become that person in your world by volunteering to do the difficult tasks that others avoid. By doing tough jobs with excellence, you develop a reputation for helping your team or organization.

Make It Your Practice to Exceed Expectations. People who work hard don't simply meet the requirements of their positions or their customers; they exceed them. They go above and beyond what is expected because they hold themselves to a higher standard. When you exceed expectations, you are able to delight your customers, your colleagues, and your boss. This will be appreciated, remembered, and rewarded.

Poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "Big jobs usually go to the men who prove their ability to outgrow small ones." There are many possible rewards for hard work. Examples include recognition, advancement, financial rewards, respect, and mastery of your craft. But few things are as rewarding as the sense of inner satisfaction that comes from feeling exhausted after having given your best in the accomplishment of an important task. Having done that, you will finish your day with no regrets, sleep well at night, and approach the next day with great enthusiasm and gusto.

BENEFITS

When you become a hard worker, you experience the following benefits:

1. You experience personal satisfaction in a job well done.
2. You are rewarded with more opportunities.
3. People remember what you've accomplished for the organization.
4. You are seen as a valuable member of the team.
5. You increase the chances that you will be rewarded financially.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

- 1. Do 10% More.** One of the ways to make yourself work harder is to raise your own standards, by expecting more of yourself. Look at what your job requires and then try to determine what an extra 10 percent would look like. Make this your new benchmark for a job well done.
- 2. Rely on Your Strengths to Do Your Job Better.** Write down all of the duties and responsibilities that make up your job. Then compare that list with a list of your strengths. (These can be character strengths, skills, or talents.) How can you use your strengths to do your job better? How can you add more value to your customers, colleagues, and organization? Find a way to use your strengths to do more than is expected of you in the job description. By excelling in your areas of strength, work will feel less like work and more like the fulfillment of your purpose.
- 3. Make Your Job Your Own.** It's easy to let your position define you. Instead, do your job with such excellence and intelligence that you define your position. Take pride in what you do and how you do it.

REFLECT AND RESPOND

Choose something you underlined that is important to you. Take one minute to tell everyone what you chose and why it is important to you.

EVALUATION AND ACTION

Complete the self-evaluation section below.

Rate how well you demonstrate this quality in your life on a scale of 1-10.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Why did you give yourself this rating?

What benefits would you receive by improving your rating?

Who do you know that exemplifies this quality? What do you admire most about that person?

What specific action can you take immediately that will improve your rating?

Take a minute to share your responses to the self-evaluation section, including the step you will take to improve in this area. Everyone is asked to participate.