



# Proverbs for Parenting on Purpose

Ancient Wisdom for the Modern Family

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# How Could a Sweet Third-Grader Just Cheat on That School Exam?

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Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

# I. THE FOOLISH WAY OF THE LAZY

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BEHAVIOR	POSSIBLE BELIEFS

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The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but the man of understanding will draw it out.

Proverbs 20:5

BEHAVIOR	POSSIBLE BELIEFS
Procrastination	Life is Avoiding Responsibility

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<sup>9</sup> How long will you lie there, O sluggard?

When will you arise from your sleep?

<sup>10</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber,

a little folding of the hands to rest,

<sup>11</sup> and poverty will come upon you like a robber,  
and want like an armed man.

Proverbs 6:9-11



BEHAVIOR	POSSIBLE BELIEFS
Procrastination	Life is Avoiding Responsibility
Gratification	Life is Immediate Gratification

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<sup>17</sup> Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

Proverbs 21:17

<sup>19</sup> Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

Proverbs 28:19

BEHAVIOR	POSSIBLE BELIEFS
Procrastination	Life is Avoiding Responsibility
Gratification	Life is Immediate Gratification
Rationalization	Life is Minimizing Expectations

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<sup>13</sup> The sluggard says, “There is a lion in the road!  
There is a lion in the streets!”

<sup>14</sup> As a door turns on its hinges,  
so does a sluggard on his bed.

<sup>15</sup> The sluggard buries his hand in the dish;  
it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth.

<sup>16</sup> The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes  
than seven men who can answer sensibly.

Proverbs 26:13-16



## II. THE FATHER'S WARNING TO THE LAZY

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### A. Laziness Leads to Poverty.

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## II. THE FATHER'S WARNING TO THE LAZY

A. Laziness Leads to Poverty.

B. Laziness Limits Opportunity.

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<sup>25</sup> The desire of the sluggard kills him,  
for his hands refuse to labor.

<sup>26</sup> All day long he craves and craves,  
but the righteous gives and does  
not hold back.

Proverbs 21:25-26

## II. THE FATHER'S WARNING TO THE LAZY

- A. Laziness Leads to Poverty.
- B. Laziness Limits Opportunity.
- C. Laziness Threatens Stability.

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28 A man without self-control  
is like a city broken into and  
left without walls.

Proverbs 25:28



<sup>27</sup> Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house.

Proverbs 24:27



# III. FASHIONING WISDOM FOR THE LAZY

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## OBJECTIVES

1. Gets up and gets ready on his own.
2. Remembers her lunch.
3. Completes homework on his own.

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## TEACHING PLAN

1. Teach Proverbs 6:9-11: The wise accept responsibility; but the foolish avoid it.
2. Memorize: *“It’s more fun to get your work done.”*

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## WHO/WHEN/WHAT

1. Discuss relevant proverbs in weekly family devotions or over individual breakfasts.
2. Communicate expectations & incentives.
3. Watch & discuss “Pinocchio”.
4. Interview a “reformed sluggard.”

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## INCENTIVES

1. Create logical consequences; allow natural consequences.
2. Alarm clock placement. Adjust “lights out”.
3. Carry lunch sack everywhere.
4. Tighten/loosen homework schedule.

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