

DILIGENCE

BIG IDEA

Diligence allows us to operate with our best for His highest with excitement and passion in order to complete our work and call from the Lord.

KEY VERSES

Colossians 3:23-24

MEMORY VERSE

Colossians 3:23-24

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE LESSON: SKIT

- Two paper scrolls (a flattened and rolled up paper grocery bag works.)
- Two signs on string. #1 “OLDER SCRIBE” one one side and “GUTENBERG” on the other. #2 “YOUNG SCRIBE” on one side “ASSISTANT” on the other.

GAME

- No additional materials needed.

CRAFT

- clear 12 oz plastic cups with bottoms removed (SOLO brand on Amazon would work well).
- tape like painters tape or something fancier
- balloons
- bulk pack of ping pong balls
- Sharpie pen for writing names on shooters and balls

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



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BIBLE LESSON • SKIT

PREPARATION

Actors hang name signs around their neck with the OLDER SCRIBE and YOUNG SCRIBE facing the audience.

NARRATOR: Long, long ago before computers, printers, books, ink or even type writers there were scribes. The job of the scribe was to copy the scripture letter by letter onto a parchment made of animal skin using just a pen made of a feather and ink. A young scribe would listen carefully to an older scribe who would tell him exactly what letter or symbol to write.

(OLDER SCRIBE AND YOUNG SCRIBE seated near each other holding scrolls)

YOUNG SCRIBE: Done! I'll bet you've never seen anyone write as quickly as me. With me here, we'll have our new copy of the scriptures in weeks instead of months!

OLDER SCRIBE: Very impressive. Nice clear writing.

YOUNG SCRIBE: I'm the best. Give me another scroll to write. Let's crank these out.

OLDER SCRIBE: Patience, my young friend.

YOUNG SCRIBE: Patience? Let me work fast, get the job done and get on with my day.

OLDER SCRIBE: Every time you completed a line, did you count each pen stroke and then compare it to the original?

YOUNG SCRIBE: Uh...sort of. Look, here's how I figure it. I write a paragraph, then I go back and read the paragraph from the first scroll. If it basically means the same thing then I'm done. Who cares if I missed one dot or line? Even if I missed an entire word the meaning of the paragraph is still there. And I'm super fast!

OLDER SCRIBE: Oh, dear. I'm afraid you don't understand the importance of what you're doing.

YOUNG SCRIBE: I'm making more copies of scripture in less time. Isn't that the point?

OLDER SCRIBE: No, you are preserving God's Word to His people. (Look at new scroll.) Let me proofread this carefully. Let's see, "In." (Consult own scroll.) The original says "in." Good! It's the same. (Look at new scroll.) Yours says "I-he." (Consult own scroll.) The original says, "the." Look, these are different! You forgot to cross the "t"!

YOUNG SCRIBE: (Impatiently) This is going to take all month!

OLDER SCRIBE: It's what you should have been doing all along. Check every letter as you write it down.

(OLDER SCRIBE bend continue studying both scrolls carefully fixing errors. YOUNG SCRIBE exits, then returns to show the passage of time.)

YOUNG SCRIBE: You've been studying that scroll for HOURS. Just adding little dots and lines. What a waste of time.

OLDER SCRIBE: Oh, oh. IT is as I feared.

YOUNG SCRIBE: What?

OLDER SCRIBE: You have missed an entire WORD.

YOUNG SCRIBE: So? It's only one word.

OLDER SCRIBE: You wrote, "I will leave you until I have done what I have promised..."

YOUNG SCRIBE: And very neatly, too. See how easy it is to read?

OLDER SCRIBE: But the original says, "I will NOT leave you until I have done what I have promised...."

YOUNG SCRIBE: No problem! Give it here and I'll squeeze the extra word in.

OLDER SCRIBE: We do not squeeze in extra words! We copy ACCURATELY the first time! This scroll is

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flawed. It will have to be destroyed.

YOUNG SCRIBE: You can't do that. I spend weeks on it!

OLDER SCRIBE: To the profit of no one. I'm afraid this job is not for you. You're just not careful enough.

YOUNG SCRIBE: Your just too picky. I need something more creative to apply my talents to. What do you think of comic scrolls...?

(OLDER SCRIBE and YOUNG SCRIBE turn around and freeze. Turn name signs around.)

NARRATOR: Several thousand years later a man named Gutenberg invented something new that would change the world.

(SCRIBES turn around and become GUTENBERG and ASSISTANT)

GUTENBERG: (Pretend to work on a large machine.) One more bolt to tighten and -- there -- I have finished.

ASSISTANT: It's beautiful sire. What are you going to name it?

GUTENBERG: I think I shall call it the "printing press." Now then, what should we print first?

ASSISTANT: Something neatly and easy to read. How about this old scroll? It has neat pictures.

GUTENBERG: Fancy writing and pictures aren't as important as content. We need something worthy of printing multiple copies. The first book must be extremely important.

ASSISTANT: Well, if we turn this comic scroll into a comic book wont that be unique? We'd sell out in a day!

GUTENBERG: No! Something valuable. Something truly priceless. There is only one book that fits the criteria, the bible. The bible must be the first printed book.

ASSISTANT: Why the bible?

GUTENBERG: Just think. We very carefully make a printing plate. We'll check it, double check and triple check. Wen we are certain it is accurate, we can print thousands of Bibles in the time ONE was copied in that past!

(GUTENBERG and ASSISTANT turn around and freeze.)

NARRATOR: Scribes were real people and so was Gutenberg. They played a part in a much bigger story in which God wrote, preserved and distributed His Holy Word for man to read and know. The bible is the most popular book of all time. Can you imagine what our bibles would be like if those early scribes didn't care about dots, lines or even whole words? Their diligence to copy letter by letter was incredibly important.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is diligence?
- In what parts of your life do you need to be diligent?
- What would the world be like if people stopped caring about doing things well?
- Have you ever experienced a situation when someone was not diligent? What happened?

SIMPLIFIED LESSON OPTIONS

- *Tell just the scribe part of the story or just the Gutenberg part of the story.*
- *Use hand motions instead of props.*

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Lesson 7

CRAFT AND GAME

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: SHOOTER-CATCHER

Make a shooter that also catches.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, hole punches

DIRECTIONS

- Cut bottoms off cups.
- Tape around sharp edge of cup.
- Cut the neck off a balloon
- Stretch balloon around top rim of cup
- Write name on cup and ball

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- clear 12 oz plastic cups with bottoms removed (SOLO brand on Amazon would work well).
- tape like painters tape or something fancier
- balloons
- bulk pack of ping pong balls
- Sharpie pen for writing names on shooters and balls

EXAMPLE



SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS

- *Precut plastic cups*
- *Precut balloons*
- *Pretape cups*

• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: SHOOT AND CATCH

Shoot a ping pong ball and catch with the shooter-catcher. It takes diligence!

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Shooter-catcher craft as outlined above

INSTRUCTIONS

Game #1: Shoot your ball and catch it in your cup.

Game #2: Shoot your ball into a bucket.

Game #3: Shoot your ball to a friend and the friend catches it in their cup.

Game #4: Divide into teams and have a relay race. One at a time kids run across the play area, shoot into a bucket, and run back. First team to get all their balls in the bucket wins!

