

Time and Work: Teacher's topic guide

God is Wise Year 7

Spiritual awareness: God wants us to serve Him and others through work. He wants us to use our time and abilities wisely to achieve God's best through us.

Values:

- **Diligence:** using our time and skills wisely
- **Commitment and contentment** in our work
- **Attentiveness** in seeking God's will for our lives
- **Service:** follow the example of Jesus, the greatest servant
- **Helpfulness:** being willing to help others and put others before our own

Outcomes: Students will

- Gain a Biblical understanding of work
- Make a study of jobs in the community
- Set up a mock business at school

Biblical understanding: *(Notes from Creation Magazine, www.creation.com)*

Did God create us to work?

Yes, God created us to work!

The Bible says that God wanted Adam to "work and keep" the Garden of Eden.

God created Eve to be Adam's helper. Gen 2:15; Gen 2:18-22

Does God work?

God worked during Creation Week making everything in the universe in six days, and He rested on the seventh day. He is always at work keeping the universe going. He also listens to our prayers and helps us. It is a good thing that God always works!

Gen 1:1-21; Colossians 1:17

Why did work become hard?

Because Adam sinned, the whole world was cursed. Part of this curse is that work became a lot harder. God told Adam that he would have to work very hard to get food from then on, and the ground would start producing thorns and thistles – bad plants that choke out good plants. Gen 3:17-19

How much does God want us to work?

God worked for six days and rested on the seventh as an example to us. He created us to need to sleep at night, and also to need a break from working. When God rescued the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt, He gave them a special gift. When they were slaves, they were never given a day off. But to show that God was a kind God, He gave them the Sabbath – one whole day of rest every week! Having a day to rest is an opportunity to show we trust God to give us what we need. God wants us to use our day of rest to worship Him. Luke 10:1-2

Did Jesus work?

We know that Jesus was a carpenter, like His adopted father, Joseph. Carpentry was hard work, and they didn't get paid a lot, so Jesus had to work really hard. The whole family had to work, including the brothers of Jesus. Some of them were fishermen. John 4:34; John 21:1-7

What attitude should we have when we work?

Many people complain about having to work. But we should work with a grateful heart, because God has given us the ability to work, and He wants us to do things for Him and for others. Ecclesiastes 3:22; Colossians 3:23; Philippians 2:14

Will we work in Heaven?

Jesus says that we will rule with Him in Heaven. That means that we will all work doing lots of different things. But because there won't be sin anymore, it will be easy work that we will enjoy. Because God created us to work, working for God will make us happy. 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 22:3

Activities

1. Jobs and occupations in the community

Classify occupations according to:

Work with people

Work with animals

Work with plants

Work with food

Work with materials

Work with transport and machinery

Write a job description for people in these occupations. Invite guest speakers.
Which job would you choose and why?

2. Start a business

Students can work in groups to plan a business they could initiate for sale of a product over one lunch time at school. The group provides a report as follows:

Suggest more than one product they might choose to sell and decide which would have the most appeal to their market (They can conduct some surveys)

Write a description of the product they decide on.

Assess how many people could potentially buy this product? (How big is the market?)

Asses the amount of product required for the event.

List resources required.

List people required for setting up the business.

Asses money required for starting the business. Make a list of expenses. Where will the money come from? (Borrowed money will have to be repaid out of profits.)

Describe how they will advertise the product.

Plan how they will collect the money.

Decide what they will do with the profit, e.g. give to a good cause, or buy resources for the classroom, e.g. sports equipment

Examples of business suitable for a school lunchtime event: (Try and avoid junk food options)
fruit salad in paper cups; popcorn; pancakes; art work; hand-made jewelry, e.g. friendship bracelets;
holding a concert and charging entry fee

Over one week, during lunch time, groups can take turns in selling their product to other students. Each group records the amount of profit. See which group gets the greatest profit. Graph results.

Beacon Media Research Cards: Time and work

Biography: Wai of Ono

God is Wise

Time management

Wisdom is:

- knowing how to make good use of your time
- being organized

Activities

Make a list of all the important things you need to do outside of school time, like homework and jobs at home.

Now make a list of all the things you want to do to relax and have fun.

Make a plan for when you will do your work activities and when you will do your leisure activities. Give days and times for your activities over the next week.

Write a list of your personal talents you would like to work on. Now write a list of times and activities you will undertake to develop these talents.

Is leisure time wasted time?

Leisure time is not wasted time if it is in balance with the time you work.

What is your favourite activity that you enjoy doing in your leisure time?

Getting your work done well, without wasting time, means that you have more time for doing what you really enjoy.

Make a list of how you spend your time. Fill in each section of the chart with the sorts of activities and the approximate amounts of time you would spend on them in a week.

Family	Leisure	School
Alone time	Favourite time	Friends
Helping others	Exercise	Homework and reading

What does the Bible say about using what is given to us?

Matthew 25:14-30 The story of the talents. The servant who hid his money in the ground could have suffered from poor time management. How can poor time management restrict what we can do for God?

Art Year 7

Time and work

God is Wise

Biblical wall art and text: Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters. Colossians 3:23

Drawing

Draw figures engaged in work activities.



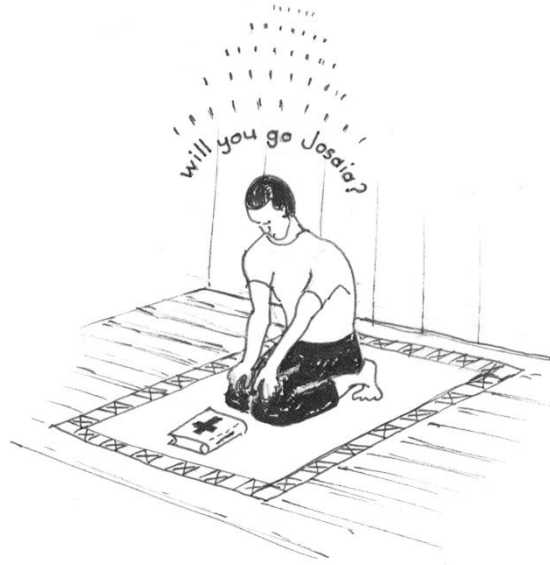
Business projects

Use arts and crafts skills to make something that could be sold.

e.g. jewelry, cards, board games, place mats, traditional crafts

Wai of Ono, Fiji

Biography



Two Fijian men were traveling on a trading ship to Lakemba, on a trade route between Tonga and Fiji. One was Wai, a messenger for his people on the little island of Ono, about 50 miles south of Suva. The other was Takai who had worked on a number of trade vessels traveling between the island groups.

"I'm tired of all the fighting and drunken behaviour amongst the people on my island," said Wai. His heart was heavy because of the sorry state his community was in. There is so much sickness and unhappiness. I wish I could find a way to improve our life together."

"Yes, I know what you mean," replied Takai. "As I've traveled around on the trade vessels I've seen some very unhappy communities. I'm sorry to say that these traders make it worse by bringing in the drink to sell to the people. It makes the fighting so much worse when they get drunk."

Takai sat silently with Wai for a few moments, then he said thoughtfully, "But I've seen some places where the village people were all at peace with each other. I went to Tonga a while ago when the Christian missionaries were teaching the people about their God. The people were so changed when they believed in the Creator God and His Son, Jesus. They stopped fighting with each other. They didn't want to buy the drink to get drunk on. When I saw that, I thought it was the best way to stop the wars in my island. One day I'll find a teacher to go to my island to teach us about the Christian way of living. That's what I want for my people too," Wai declared. "I'm going to find out all I can about this Christian way and get someone to teach my people about it."

Wai returned to his island determined to try and follow the Christian way. All he knew about it was what he had heard from Takai.

“The Christians meet together to worship their God every seventh day, and they do no other work on that day,” was the one thing Wai remembered. He called together the chiefs of Ono and told them what he knew of the Tongan Christians.

“The best thing about it is that they don’t fight amongst themselves any more. The people in the villages are happier and healthier. They don’t buy the liquor from the trading ships any more, so they don’t get drunk. Surely this is what we need for our people.”

The council of chiefs talked together about this for a time before they spoke again to Wai. “We’ve had enough of war. We’re tired of fighting and drunken behaviour. We want to serve a god who will look after us. We want to live the Christian way and be at peace with each other,” they said. “But, tell us, Wai, how do we do it? We need a teacher.”

“The Tongan Christians worship every seventh day. On that day they don’t do any work,” Wai replied.

“Very well, then,” said the chiefs. “We’ll start to worship God every seventh day.”

On the agreed day they came together to worship. But no-one there knew the Christian God. Nobody knew how to worship. So Wai went to see the pagan priest who worshipped the local heathen gods.

“Would you come along to our worship meeting,” he asked. “We want to worship the Christian God, Jehovah. We want you to pray to Him for us.”

Here was a pagan priest with a group of people who didn’t know God, but wanted to, praying to an unknown God. This is what he prayed:

“O Lord, Jehovah, these people want to worship you. I’m not speaking for myself. I want to serve other gods. But please look after them and bless them.”

Could God answer such a prayer? Certainly He did, in a remarkable way. About that time there was a deep-sea canoe sailing out at sea between Tonga and Fiji. A severe storm struck the canoe and the men on board feared for their lives. Amongst those on board there was a small group of Tongan Christians.

“Help us, Lord! Save us from this storm!” they cried out to God.

They were tossed about in the raging sea for some time, until through a break in the rain, they sighted a small island.

“Let’s make for that island and find shelter till the storm passes,” suggested one of the men. They all agreed and set the canoe to skull in to land before the rising wind. They were soon pulling the canoe up on to the sand away from the heavy seas.

The people on this island offered them shelter and food until the storm had passed. They stayed on the island for a time while they repaired the damage to the canoe. They told the travelers about the people on the island of Ono, not very far away.

“Wai, their messenger, heard about Jehovah God of the Christians in Tonga. Wai wants his people to serve this God too, because He brings peace to the people. All they know is to

worship Him every seventh day. But they want someone to come and tell them all about Him. They really want to know this God for themselves.”

The Tongan Christians from the canoe were very interested to hear about the people on Ono. One member of the group thought and prayed about them when he was alone that night.

“Josaia, I want you to go to Ono where Wai lives and tell those people about me. They really want to know me so I’m telling you to go to them.”

It was as though he heard an audible voice directing him, but he knew it was the voice of God. He thought of the story in the Bible about Ananias whom God sent to meet Saul, who became Paul.

“Yes, Lord,” responded Josaia, “I’ll go.” And he went across in the canoe to teach these people who were hungering to know the Christian God.

This story happened before there were any white Christian missionaries in Fiji, but it demonstrates how God works in the hearts of people who really want to know Him.

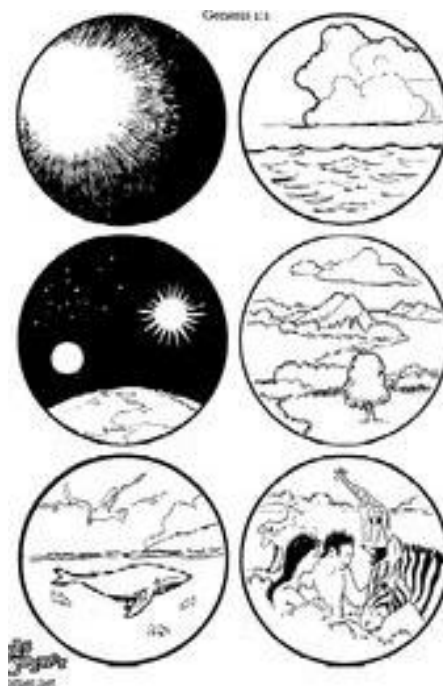
Adapted from: *Deep Sea Canoe*, Alan R. Tippett, William Carey Library, Pasadena, California

Time and Work 1

God's work

Read the creation story in Genesis 1 and 2:1-2.

1. For how many days did God work?
2. Make a list of the six days and what God did on each day.
3. How do we know that God was pleased with His work? (Genesis 1:31)
4. What did God do on the seventh day?



Time and Work 2

Working and resting

1. How many hours do you usually sleep each night?
2. Select 5 people and ask them how much sleep they have each night. Make a graph to show how much each person sleeps.
3. Why might some people need more sleep than others? (Hint: think about age.)
4. Is there is a difference between sleep and rest?
Write a definition of each:
 - Sleep
 - Rest
5. Why do we need to rest?
6. What would be the problem with staying up until midnight every night?



Time and Work 3

Working with others

Some work is done on your own. Some work is done with the help with other people.

1. Make a list of work activities that can be done on your own.
2. Make a list of work activities for which you require a helper.
3. List some tasks that require a group of people working together:
 - in your classroom
 - at home
 - in a community service.
4. Working together well is called co-operation.
Give an example of a task for each of the following that would need co-operation:
 - The Classroom
 - The home
 - The Community
5. Read Genesis 2:20. Why did God create the first woman?
6. How did He do this?



Time and Work 4

People in the Bible who co-operated with each other

Read Exodus 2:1-10

1. Who co-operated with who?
2. Why was co-operation important?

Read Nehemiah 3

1. What were the Jewish people building?
2. What parts of the building in particular needed to be repaired?

Read Nehemiah 4:6.

3. Which word tells us that the people had a good attitude to work?

Building a House

4. Make a list of the different tradesmen who help in the building of a house.

Co-operating together: Building God's House

Read Exodus 35:21-29

5. What is being built here?
6. The people brought their best gifts to God. They were gifts they had made themselves. List five things that the people brought to God's house.
7. Who was in charge of the project?
8. List three occupations mentioned in Exodus 35:35?



Time and Work 5

Working to find the best way

Try to think of a time when you needed to alter your first ideas or plans so that the finished result could be more effective.

This is what Gideon had to do.
Read Judges 7.

1. Gideon was the leader of the army in battle but God was not happy about his plans. Why? Read verses 5-6 to find out.
2. God knew that there was a better way. How did God make changes to Gideon's plan?
3. How many men were enlisted at the beginning?
4. How many left because of fear?
5. How many left because they lapped like dogs and were not keeping a watch for the enemy?
6. How many left in his army now?
7. Write a mathematical equation to tell this event in numbers.



Time and Work 6

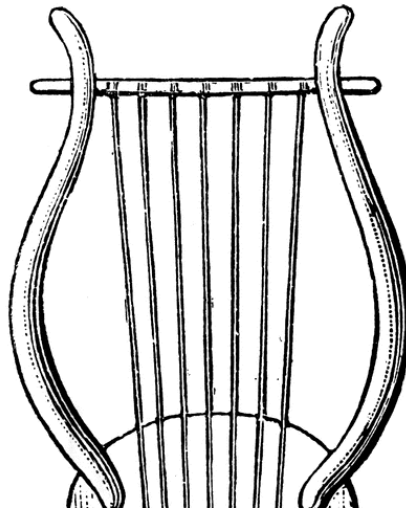
Everyone has talents

Everyone has a talent of some kind!
What is the meaning of the word 'talent'?

1. List some talents that your parents have.
2. Describe some of the talents that you have.

Some people have musical talents

3. Read 1 Samuel 16:23. What instrument could this boy play well?
4. What sort of instrument is this and what does it sound like?
5. Where do our talents come from? Find your answer in James 1:17.
6. How can you use your talents at school?
7. Do you think your talent will help you choose an occupation when you leave school?
8. What occupation would you like to follow?
9. How could you use your talents in this work?



Time and Work 7

Occupations in the Bible

Find out the occupations of people mentioned in these verses:

1. Acts 10:6 Simon was a _____
 2. Acts 10:1 Cornelius was a _____
 3. Acts 16:14 Lydia was a _____
 4. Acts 18 Paul was a _____
 5. Mark 1:16 Simon and Andrew were _____
 6. Matthew 13:55 Joseph was a _____
 7. Luke 19:2 Zacchaeus was a _____
8. Which of these occupations are still practiced today?
9. Which of these occupations have changed in the way that they are carried out?



Time and Work 8

Time

1. Read Luke 15:11-32. How did the son waste time?
2. How could it have been avoided?
3. List some ways in which people today waste time.
4. Make a chart for yourself showing every hour of one day. Mark against each hour how you would usually spend that time.
5. How could you improve on your use of time?
6. Take a survey of five people including yourself. For each person, find out the average number of hours spent in a day sleeping, eating, watching TV or screen activities, physical activity, studying, traveling, helping at home, spending time with God.
7. On which activity do you spend the most time?
8. On which activity is the least time spent?
9. The Bible tells us about time and work.
Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. What is this passage telling us?

God works in us.

10. Read Philippians 1:6. What is the good work begun in the hearts of Christians?
11. How does God continue working in us?



Time and Work 9

Honesty in work

Read Proverbs 20:23

In early times, produce was sold by weight. Explain what is this verse saying about the scales used for weighing?

How could people in these occupations act with a) dishonesty b) honesty:

1. People who make things
2. People who sell things
3. People who are paid according to their time
4. People who fix things

Punctuality in work

5. What does punctuality mean?
6. Why is it important to be punctual in a job?
7. What should you do if you have an emergency and you are going to be late?



Time and Work 10

Perseverance in work

1. What does perseverance mean?

2. If you are finding a job hard to do, you could:

Give up altogether

- Ask someone help you
- Do the job in smaller bites

Choose the best options and explain how this will help you to get through the job.

3. Choose one of these jobs and explain why they require perseverance:

- Weeding a garden full of weeds
- Building a road
- Completing a school project
- Washing clothes without a washing machine

4. What would happen if you gave up half way through and left the job undone?

Initiative in work

5. What does initiative mean?

6. How could you take initiative if:

a) The classroom is messy with papers and your teacher has just gone out of the class because she is feeling sick.

b) Mum is cooking dinner and little sister is crying.

Time and Work 11

Diligence in work

1. What is the meaning of diligence?
2. What could happen in these jobs if the worker was not diligent?
 - a) A surgeon
 - b) A pilot
 - c) A bus driver
 - d) A bank worker

Humility in work

3. What is the meaning of humility?
4. Explain how the staff should have acted in this situation:

The cleaner at a company cannot come to work today because she is sick. The rubbish is piling up but the staff members won't do anything about it because they say that it is not their job to put out the rubbish.

What should the staff have done? Why?

5. What does Jesus say about being prepared to do the humble jobs? (Matthew 20:26)
6. What do you think Jesus means when He asks everyone to be a servant?

Time and Work 12

Creativity in work

Christians have the opportunity of producing excellent work, because they understand that all their gifts are from God, and that God can use them.

We can ask God for wisdom in our work and also for new ideas. God is the creator of all knowledge. He is “all-knowing”.

As His children, we can ask Him for the best ways to do things in our work. He can help us solve problems and invent new things.

1. Here are some jobs that require problem solving. Explain the problems that might need to be solved:

- a) Medical science
- b) Aeroplane engineering

2. Here are some jobs that require creativity. Explain why.

- a) Industrial design
- b) Graphic design
- c) Film or music production

Flexibility in work

3. A creative person must be flexible. What does this mean? 4. Why is flexibility important if we want to come up with new and better ideas?