

Hard Work Pays Off

This 5-day devotional guide is based on Proverbs 30:29-31 and will help you prepare your heart for the upcoming Sunday sermon, "Hard Work Pays Off," in the preaching series, "Wisdom in Plain Sight." It may also be used as a guide for family devotions and is for the week ending Saturday, August 22, 2026.

Monday

Scripture: Proverbs 30:29

Questions for Reflection

- What general category of things does Agur introduce in this verse?
- How does he describe the way they move or carry themselves?
- Why do you think Scripture pays attention not only to actions, but also to how one walks?
- How does the idea of dignity challenge common ideas of strength or success?

Questions for Children

- What does this verse say about how some things walk?
- Do they move in a messy way or a strong way?

Prayer Prompt

Lord, help me think carefully about how I live before others. Teach me to walk in a way that honors You.

Tuesday

Scripture: Proverbs 30:30

Questions for Reflection

- What animal is described in this verse?
- What qualities are highlighted about this animal's behavior?
- How does confidence differ from pride in this example?
- In what situations do you need courage to stand firm without arrogance?

Questions for Children

- What animal is talked about in this verse?
- Is it afraid of others, or does it stand strong?

Prayer Prompt

God, give me courage to stand firm in what is right. Help me live with confidence that comes from trusting You.

Wednesday

Scripture: Proverbs 30:31a

Questions for Reflection

- What second creature is mentioned in this verse?
- What physical trait is emphasized about it?
- How does this picture illustrate readiness and alertness?
- How can spiritual readiness shape the way you face daily responsibilities?

Questions for Children

- What animal is mentioned here?
- What part of its body is described?

Prayer Prompt

Father, help me stay alert and ready to do what pleases You. Teach me to walk wisely and attentively each day.

Thursday

Scripture: Proverbs 30:31b

Questions for Reflection

- What two leadership figures are referenced in this part of the verse?
- What does their manner of movement suggest about authority?
- Why is dignity especially important for those who lead others?
- How can humility strengthen rather than weaken godly leadership?

Questions for Children

- Who is mentioned in this verse besides animals?
- Do these people act weak or strong?

Prayer Prompt

Lord, help me use influence or responsibility wisely. Teach me to lead and serve with humility and honor.

Friday

Scripture: Proverbs 30:29-31

Questions for Reflection

- What common theme connects all the examples in these verses?
- How do these pictures define dignity from God's perspective?
- What does it mean for a Christian to "walk with dignity"?
- Where might God be calling you to reflect His character more clearly in how you live?

Questions for Children

- What do all these verses teach about how to walk or act?
- Does God want His people to live in a good and honorable way?

Prayer Prompt

God, help me walk with dignity that reflects Your wisdom. Shape my character so my life points others to You.