

Foolproofing My Workplace

Lesson 03 of the series: "Foolproof"

Foolproof = fool (a thickheaded person) + proof (resistant) = to make safe against the incompetence of a fool

A. I can help foolproof my workplace by getting wisdom.

"Joyful (blessed) is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding. For wisdom is more profitable than silver, and her wages are better than gold. Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. She offers you long life in her right hand, and riches and honor in her left. She will guide you down delightful paths; all her ways are satisfying. Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her; happy are those who hold her tightly." Proverbs 3:13-18 (NLT)

Note: Wisdom helps us work smarter. "Using a dull ax requires great strength, so sharpen the blade. That's the value of wisdom; it helps you succeed." Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NLT)

Life Application: We need to pray for wisdom and receive it when we get it.

"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord." James 1:5-7 (NLT)

B. I can help foolproof my workplace by working hard.

"Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper." Proverbs 13:4 (NLT)

"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ." Colossians 3:23-24 (NLT)

C. I can help foolproof my workplace by avoiding five foolish habits.

1. I can avoid procrastination.

"I walked by the field of a lazy person, the vineyard of one with no common sense. I saw that it was overgrown with nettles. It was covered with weeds, and its walls were broken down. Then, as I looked and thought about it, I learned this lesson: A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber." Proverbs 24:30-34 (NLT)

"...it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it." James 4:17 (NLT)

2. I can avoid making excuses.

"The lazy person claims, 'There's a lion out there! If I go outside, I might be killed!'"

Proverbs 22:13 (NLT)

"Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest."

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NLT)

3. I can avoid being the team member who doesn't pull his/her own weight.

"Lazy people irritate their employers, like vinegar to the teeth or smoke in the eyes."

Proverbs 10:26 (NLT)

"A lazy person is as bad as someone who destroys things." Proverbs 18:9 (NLT)

4. I can avoid meddling in other people's business.

"He who passes by *and* meddles in a quarrel not his own is *like* one who takes a dog by the ears." Proverbs 26:17 (NKJV)

"...we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people's business. We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living." 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 (NLT)

5. I can avoid overpromising.

"Work brings profit, but mere talk leads to poverty!" Proverbs 14:23 (NLT)

“People who promise things that they never give are like clouds and wind that bring no rain.”
Proverbs 25:14 (GNT)

“...if you have trapped yourself by your agreement and are caught by what you said— follow my advice and save yourself, for you have placed yourself at your friend’s mercy. Now swallow your pride; go and beg to have your name erased. Don’t put it off; do it now! Don’t rest until you do. Save yourself like a gazelle escaping from a hunter, like a bird fleeing from a net.” Proverbs 6:2-5 (NLT)

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Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think the ability to work hard is valued in our culture as much as it used to be?
2. Read Proverbs 13:4 & Colossians 3:23. Who is the hardest working person you know? What motivates him/her?
3. Read Proverbs 10:26 & 18:9. How do you deal with laziness on the part of coworkers?
4. Read Proverbs 24:30-34. How do you deal with procrastination in your life?
5. What did God make you to do? What are you good at doing? If you could do whatever you wanted as a career what would it be?
6. Read Matthew 25:14-30 & 1 Corinthians 3:13-15. How does it make you feel to know that God sees us at work and rewards those who work diligently?

7. Discuss the following quotations:

"Whoever does not work should not eat." The Apostle Paul (2 Thessalonians 3:10)

"Big jobs usually go to the men who prove their ability to outgrow small ones." Theodore Roosevelt

"Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." Thomas Edison

"I'm a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down." Abraham Lincoln

"He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else." Benjamin Franklin

"A good plan violently executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week." General George S. Patton