

Consider the Ant

Go to the ant, you slacker! Observe its ways and become wise. Without leader, administrator, or ruler, it prepares its provisions in summer; it gathers its food during harvest. ~ Proverbs 6:6-8

Discover the Context Proverbs 6:1-19



Read Job 12:7-10. All of creation reveals lessons for life. Besides the ant and grasshopper, what other applications can you make from your surroundings?



For counselors, you will know that practical illustrations are effective when working with youth. Catch an ant and use it to illustrate today's proverb—the importance of preparing for the future and preparing to face God's judgment. The goal is that every time they see an ant they will be reminded of your lesson and remember the gospel.



After camp you can continue daily devotions with the use of *TableTalk*, a monthly devotional guide that helps you study through one book of the Bible at a time. You can learn more about it at www.ligonier.org.

As your summer winds to an end, you have most likely been making plans for the fall. You have spent the summer under the loving guidance and fellowship of directors and staff members. You have had this devotional book to help you in structuring your personal quiet time. What will you do when you return home, go to a job, or off to school? Would you like a piece of wisdom?

Solomon has provided wise advice for anyone who is preparing for the future. He tells us to go and observe those pesky, little, food-snatching insects. Disney's movie, *A Bug's Life*, doesn't quite portray the reality of ants.

Ants do not have any chief, officer, or ruler. They do not have much complexity to their ant colonies at all; they aren't honey bees for sure. Yet as Solomon notes, the ant prepares for the present and plans for the future.

Now is your time to consider the ant. Without the oversight of a director or the encouragement of an accountability partner, will you stay in the word when you're away from camp? Will you seek the fellowship of a local church where God's truths are clearly taught? My friend, now is the time to plan and to commit yourself to staying connected to God. Oh, it is often easier to be a Christian at a Christian camp than at a secular job or in a non-Christian college. Don't be unprepared for whatever environment it is that you'll be going to. Be like the ant. Begin planning now.

Consider the diligence with which the ant works. A thriving spiritual life isn't an automatic thing. You must work hard at growing in the grace of God. You don't just fall into a life of prayer and holiness. You grow into it, and you must strive forward to attain it. Yet all along, it is only God's grace that can provide for this and sustain you in it. So push on, be faithful, and look to God—with the lesson of the ant in the back of your mind. [BHK]