



MISSIONAL VALUES—3

GOD'S MISSION IS WIDER THAN EVANGELISM. ONE SIMPLE WAY OF DESCRIBING IT IS RESTORATION. ACTS 3:21.

3. DO WHAT'S DOABLE. IF ITS NOT DOABLE, IT WON'T GET DONE—BUT DON'T GET LAZY.

Note: It may be best to devote a whole evening to this session so that you can do it thoroughly in one big bite—a quick coffee and get going!

Orientation

- Read Proverbs 26:13-16. (The Good News Bible does a really good job with Proverbs.) These proverbs should read like one-liners, quick put-downs.
- In small groups decide what are the points made about laziness in each of the four verses and feed back.

Explore

- The Bible passage for this study is Matthew 25:14-30. Have people volunteer to read the story by paragraph. Don't spend too much time on this.
- Do a dramatic reading of The Parable of the Talents from Lightning Sketches. Encourage people to get carried away as much as they want to, though you can probably dispense with Dracula. Do it twice to get the pace right.

Think (You may need to trim this section)

In a large group, give people chance to think through their answers:

- What impression of the third servant did you have before this evening?
- What impression do you get from the Bible text?
- What does Julian Potterton-Brown bring to the part?
- Do you have some sympathy with the third servant? Why or why not?

Reflect

- Laziness or *atychiphobia*? What are the roots of fear of failure? (You should read up on the topic from <http://www.goal-setting-guide.com/overcoming-fear-of-failure.html> so that you can prompt people.
- How does doing what's doable mesh with faith? What about Matthew 17:20?

Act (Please allow at least 10 minutes for this section)

In smaller groups, discuss whether and how doing what's doable can help you engage with God's mission: in evangelism, loving service, standing for justice, praying for people. Pray for one another before you leave.

PLEASE ASK PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT WHETHER FEAR OF FAILURE IS AN ISSUE FOR THEM. SUGGEST THEY TALK WITH YOU IF IT IS. CONSIDER SUGGESTING *FREEDOM IN CHRIST*.