

# ELEMENTARY DISCUSSION GUIDE

## CHARACTER TRAIT:

**DILIGENCE**

## DEFINITION:

Consistently working with all my heart to bring glory to God

## MEMORY VERSE:

"So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless." **1 CORINTHIANS 15:58**

## FINISH LINE:

God's work through us is never useless

## READ: GENESIS 6:9-7:6

### WHAT DOES IT SAY?

#### (OBSERVATION)

1. What "work" did God give Jonah? *(Go and tell the Ninevites that God is going to judge their wickedness.)*
2. Who were the Ninevites? *(They were Israel's enemies. They did not follow God.)*
3. What did Jonah do instead of going to Nineveh? *(He got on a boat heading the opposite direction. He tried to run away from the work the Lord wanted him to do.)*
4. How did the Ninevites respond to God's message after Jonah finally shared it with them? *(They believed it, repented of their sins, and stopped doing evil.)*
5. How did God respond to the Ninevites? *(God showed them mercy and forgave them. He did not punish them for their sin.)*

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

#### (INTERPRETATION)

1. How did Jonah *not* work diligently? *(At first he refused to do God's work and even tried to run away from the Lord.)*
2. Jonah praised God when He saved him with the big fish instead of punishing him for his sins BUT was upset that God forgave the Ninevites for their sins. What seems wrong about Jonah's heart? *(He was more focused on himself and what he wanted than about saving the Ninevites or glorifying God.)*
3. Jonah thought the work God had for him was useless, but God had a purpose. What do you think it was? *(God cared about the people of Nineveh who did not know Him. He wanted to save them from the punishment they deserved for their sin.)*

### WHY DOES IT MATTER?

#### (APPLICATION)

1. How do you feel when you do not understand why you have to do something? When is it hard for you to work diligently? *(Examples: Homework, chores, practice, etc.)*
2. What can you remember is true about God when you are tempted to believe the work He has for you is useless? *(God is all-knowing and always has a good plan. God does not need us, but He loves us and want us to use us so we can be a part of the amazing things He is doing.)*