**Show Me The Money Session 4**

Tonight is the last of 4 Show Me The Money sessions.

In the first week we showed the movie: Nothing for Mahala.

In week 2 we looked at Honesty.

Last week we are looked at Thrift.

Welcome to newcomers and regulars.

This week we are going to look at Diligence.

**Diligence Boot Camp:** We have setup different stations with activities with a mix of mental and physical challenges for you to experience. You will move around in your groups. Some examples:

1. Human Knot: The group forms a circle. Everyone reaches into the centre with their right hand, and grabs someone else’s hand. Next they use their left hands to grab another person’s hand. No one should be holding the same person’s hands. This is a human knot. Now they have to untangle themselves and reform the circle without letting go of their partner’s hand.

2. Puzzle Build. The group has 2 minutes to build a 20 to 50 piece jigsaw puzzle without using the picture.

3. Coin Stack. The group has 2 minutes to work together to stack all the coins that are provided into a free standing stack.

4. Ball Rally. The group is given table tennis bats and a ball and they have to keep the ball in the air for at least 50 hits. The next target can be 100 hits.

5. Defy Gravity. The group is given 3 balloons and they have to keep them in the air for 2 minutes - without using their hands nor touching a balloon more than once at a time.

6. Needle Thread. The group is given a piece of cotton and each person gets a needle. They have 2 minutes to thread the cotton through all the needles.

Note: Smaller youth groups can run a few of the activities one after the other with everyone taking part in each activity.

**Debrief:** (1) Was it hard or easy to do the challenges? (2) What made you keep going? (3) How did it feel when you persevered?

**Introducing Diligence:** (1) Working hard and doing your absolute best, with enthusiasm and excellence. (2) The value that drives one to earn one’s money in a way that is honourable. (3) Persevering to overcome obstacles; being responsible with money and future-minded when it comes to saving. (4) Being diligent about school work and taking pride in your work.

**Movie Clip:** Before you show the clip read the following introduction: Reneilwe is the young, talented manager of an old-age home where Axe is sentenced for community service. She embodies the values of service, generosity and unselfish giving. She has chosen a modestly paid job over a wealthy lifestyle and is diligent in the way she executes her work and responds to the residents in the old-age home.

**Play Scene 3:** The story of Reneilwe & diligence on the DVD at the back of the book. If you don’t have a DVD player or projector, you can read the scene synopsis below out loud.

• Reneilwe is the young, talented manager of an old-age home where Axe is sentenced for community service. She embodies the values of service, generosity and unselfish giving. She has chosen a low paid job over a huge income and is diligent in the way she executes her work and responds to the residents in the old-age home.

• She asks Axe for his help in organising the annual fundraising concert.

• Axe wants to know: What’s in it for me?

• Reneilwe is disgusted: There always has to be something in it for you.

• Axe is adamant: That’s the way the world works.

• Reneilwe insists: Your world. Not mine.

• She challenges Axe: You cannot even imagine doing something for nothing, can you? Helping others is its own reward.

• Axe has never met anyone like her before, someone whose views on life are vastly different from his.

• Later on, Axe asks Reneilwe what her story is, whether she has someone in her life and why she works at the old-age home.

• Reneilwe tells him about how she was set to be married to an ambitious, successful and very wealthy man – but ended up calling off the wedding: “My mom thought I was crazy, but I knew that if I married him, I’d be taken care of for life. I’d have a big house, nice car, I’d never have to work - And I knew I’d probably spend the rest of my life regretting it.”

• Once again Axe is baffled by her selfless attitude.

• Reneilwe embodies the values of service, generosity and selflessness. She could be married to a rich man and living an easy life, yet has chosen instead to work hard and serve others.

**Video:** Diligence: The Story of Reneilwe and Diligence. From the Show Me The Money/Nothing for Mahala DVD.

**Movie Talk:** (1) What can we learn from Reneilwe who did not marry for money or take a high-paying job, but works at an old-age home for low pay? (2) To help with the fundraising concert, Axe asks:,“What’s in it for me?” Why does Axe only help if he gets something? (3) What does Reneilwe get out of her job if it is not about the money? (4) Even though residents like Hendrik give her a hard time, Reneilwe still does her job with passion and perseverance. What do you think motivates her?

**Diligence Discussions:** In small groups we are going to look at what the Bible says about diligence.

1. Read Proverbs 13:11 (Good News Translation). “The more easily you get your wealth, the sooner you will lose it. The harder it is to earn, the more you will have.” (a) What do you think Axe could have learnt from this Bible verse? (b) Do you agree that the harder you work for something, the more you appreciate it? Give reasons for your answer.

2. Read Proverbs 12:27. “A slothful (lazy) man will not catch his prey, but the diligent man will get precious wealth.” (1) Reneilwe might not be earning much but she works hard at her job. In which ways would this verse inspire her? (b) What does this verse tell us about working hard and achieving success?

3. Read Proverbs 10:5 (TLB). “A wise youth makes hay while the sun shines, but what a shame to see a lad who sleeps away his hour of opportunity.” (a) What does this Bible verse tell us about being diligent? (b) In which ways could we live out this verse at school, place of study, and in how we earn our money?

**Optional:** The Story of Nehemiah and the Rebuilding of the Wall.

Nehemiah’s Background

• In 586 BC Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, and his army invade Judah. They overrun the country, attack the capital city of Jerusalem and destroy it. The walls of the city are also destroyed. The surviving young men are taken into captivity to Babylon, 1200 km away.

• Many years later Nehemiah, living in captivity, is talking to fellow Jews who have returned from a trip to Jerusalem. They report that after all these years, the walls and the gates of the city are still in disrepair. This is disturbing news and rebuilding the wall becomes Nehemiah’s burden.

• Nehemiah saw the problem. He took action. He knew God wanted him to motivate the Jews to rebuild the city wall. So he left a responsible job in the Persian government to do what God wanted him to do.

• He knew God could use his talents of planning, organising and leadership. At the appropriate time Nehemiah asks King Artaxerxes for permission to go and rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. The King approves. From the moment he arrived, people knew who was in charge.

• He organised, managed, supervised, encouraged, met opposition, confronted injustice, and got everyone involved in rebuilding the wall. He was a man of action.

• He organised the people of Jerusalem into groups and assigned them to rebuild different sections of the wall.

• In chapter 4 verse 6 we read: “At last the wall was completed to half its original height around the entire city—for the workers worked hard.” They continued to work until the wall was complete in only 52 days.

Bible Discussion in Groups: (1) What do you think motivated Nehemiah to go back to Jerusalem to rebuild the city wall? (2) How important do you think it was that Nehemiah believed that rebuilding the wall was what God wanted him to do? (3) Nehemiah faced many obstacles and challenges. What do you think kept him going? (4) How do you think Nehemiah and the people of Jerusalem felt after they had completed the work?

**Diligence Benefits:** Everyone all in the city benefitted from the diligence and hard work of both Nehemiah and the people who did the work. Diligence has benefits in everyday life!

**Diligence Challenge:** (1) Take a photo of someone living out any of the values we explored: Honesty, Thrift or Diligence. (2) Post the photos on the Heartlines Facebook page (or our youth group Facebook page).

**Food For Thought:** This week we looked at the life of Reneilwe and the example she set in living a life of diligence. We looked at what the Bible has to say about working hard and being committed to being responsible and committed in what you are doing. We saw how Nehemiah was diligent in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and the positive impact that had on so many people.

**Reflection:** As I read through these questions (slowly) I want you to quietly reflect on your answers:

• Would your parents, teachers, sports coaches and friends describe you as a hard worker?

• When you face obstacles, do you give up easily or do you persevere?

• Have you started something: projects, savings, joined a club etc. and you gave up too easily? Why?

• How diligent and persevering do you want to be as a person in the future?

• What habits in hard work and perseverance can you develop now that will help you in the future?

**Closing Prayer:** Almighty God, thank you that you desire that our lives should be successful and that you want to work with us to make this happen. Please help us to make wise choices that will result in us being hard working, diligent and persevering. In Jesus’ name. Amen