

Rule #9: Sharpen Your Skills: Solomon teaches that effort alone is not enough—skill matters. In Ecclesiastes 10:10, he reminds us that a dull axe requires more effort, but a sharpened one brings success. Growth doesn't happen automatically—it requires intention. Even Jesus grew in wisdom and maturity, reminding us that development is part of a faithful life. The question this week is simple: Where do you need to grow—not just work harder?

QUESTIONS

Read SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 10:10; 2 Timothy 2:15; Luke 2:52

1. Check-in Question: WHAT'S ONE SKILL (IN ANY AREA OF LIFE) THAT YOU'VE IMPROVED OVER TIME—AND HOW DID YOU GROW IN IT?
2. WHAT DO YOU THINK SOLOMON MEANS BY "SHARPENING THE AXE"? (*What does that look like in real life? Take the time to allow for time to explore the many ways we "sharpen," and "become sharper"*)
3. WHERE IN YOUR LIFE ARE YOU RELYING MORE ON EFFORT THAN GROWTH? (*Spiritual life, relationships, work, leadership, etc.*)
4. WHY IS IT SO EASY TO STAY BUSY BUT STOP DEVELOPING?
5. WHAT IS ONE AREA WHERE GOD MAY BE INVITING YOU TO GROW OR SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS RIGHT NOW?

NEXT STEPS / CHALLENGE: DON'T JUST WORK HARDER—SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER TIME

Read the following scriptures this week:

Day 1 – Ecclesiastes 10:10, Skill and preparation make life more effective.

Day 2 – Proverbs 1:5, The wise continue to learn and grow.

Day 3 – Proverbs 22:29, Skill and diligence lead to influence and opportunity.

Day 4 – 2 Timothy 2:15, Study and preparation matter in spiritual life.

Day 5 – Luke 2:52, Even Jesus grew—development is part of God's design.

Day 6 – Colossians 3:23, Work with excellence as an act of worship.

Day 7 – Hebrews 5:14, Maturity comes through practice and training.