THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER

In a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest. "Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of toiling and moiling in that way?" "I am helping to lay up food for the winter," said the Ant, "and recommend you to do the same." "Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper, "we have got plenty of food at present." But the Ant went on its way and continued its toil. When the winter came the Grasshopper had no food and found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the ants distributing every day corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer. Then the Grasshopper knew:

LIFE LESSON: Prepare today for the needs that you will have tomorrow.

This fable highlights the virtues of hard work and planning for the future, as well as, the perils of improvidence and the consequences of laziness. The lesson to be learned is to think ahead, and plan and prepare for the future.

There is no secret to success. It is the result of preparation and hard work. Preparation is the process of becoming ready for something. As you mature, you will soon discover that hard work is always rewarded.

We often think about why we did no pass a test, get a job or a leadership position, or win a contest or match. We would like to think it was a matter of bad luck. But there is no such thing as bad luck in life. It is a matter of planning and preparation, and hard work. Success is the product of your work and effort.

As Benjamin Franklin appropriately said, “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” Accordingly, avoid the bad habits of laziness (unwilling to work or lack of effort) and improvidence (not having the ability to predict what will be needed in the future).

Remember, in life you have two choices: work or play. There is a time for work and a time for play. The decisions you make today have consequences in the future. The ants prepared for the future. The Grasshopper who did not suffered in the winter months.

The moral of the story is that just because you do not need something right now does not mean you should put it off. It is okay to take time to enjoy the fun things in life, but do not wait to write that essay the day it's due, study for an exam the night before, or start preparing for a career after graduation. Stop procrastinating, think ahead, and always be prepared for what’s ahead.

Value the importance of thinking ahead. The best preparation for tomorrow is to do today’s work. Today’s preparation determines tomorrow’s achievement, especially regarding your career, and the quality of life for you and your family.