

10. What will the sluggard become, if he will take time to consider the ways of an ant? _____

* A **sluggard** is a *person who is habitually lazy and inactive*. He moves drowsily and slowly. God has wisdom for a sluggard: go consider an ant! **Consider** means to *view attentively; examine closely; observe!*

11. What does an ant **not** have? (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

* He needs no boss! He sees a need - and does it, without being guided every step of the way and moment of the day!

12. What does the ant do in the summer? _____

13. What does the lowly ant do during harvest time? _____

* Let us take time to consider a few of the ways of ants.

An ant can carry up to 27 times its own weight - and not even puff! This would be equivalent to a 148 pound person not just lifting - but **carrying** - 4,000 pounds That is two tons - the weight of a small SUV!

(Note: The Lord instructs us in Galatians 6:2: “Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” If an ant can carry monstrous burdens, the Lord can surely give His children the strength to lift the burdens of people in need!)

An ant cooperates with its fellow ants for the good of the whole ant colony. Colonies vary in size from a dozen to thousands upon thousands of ants.

Each colony is divided into 3 castes. (1) The queen ant is responsible for founding a new colony and laying eggs that produce new ants to keep the colony going. She tunnels underground to make a nest, and all alone, seals herself into her tunnel to lay her eggs. (2) The winged male ants fertilize the queen's eggs. When their task is finished, they immediately die. (3) The female worker ants work - and work - and work! They dig and maintain tunnels; clean, groom, and feed each other; collect food; tend to the needs of all the baby ants; hunt; and form armies to defend the colony against intruders.

Ants have a two-part stomach. In one part (the crop), food for the colony is temporarily stored. The ant's own personal supply of food is in the other part. When an ant finds food, it chews it up and dissolves it into a liquid. Most of this liquid food goes into the crop. Only a tiny bit goes into the other part, for its own use. Back at the colony, the ant with the full crop helps feed the others!

Some ants are farmers. The leaf-cutting ants of Louisiana and Texas take leaves into their underground nests and grow a special fungus, or kind of mushroom, on them.

Other ants are dairy farmers. They tend aphids, in the same way that dairy farmers tend cows. Aphids are tiny insects that overfeed on plant juices. The ants softly stroke the backs of the aphids with their antennae. Out come tiny drops of honeydew, that the ants then store in their crops.

Harvester ants fill special storerooms in their mounds with great quantities of seeds that they have gathered. They then mill the seeds by crushing them with their strong jaws. The end product of their chewing is a “bread” that feeds all the ants in the colony. The seeds that start to sprout before they can be chewed are carried away from the ant mound and left to grow.

Honey ants feed on honeydew from other insects, nectar from flowers, and other plant juices. Food is not always readily available in the dry plains and deserts of the western United States, where these ants live. So they store up food for the hard times. Their storage pantry is in other ants! During good times, these special ants are fed until they can hardly move. Then they hang from the ceiling of the nest until their food is needed. During the lean times, they are tapped for food to keep the colony alive. They become living honeypots!

We now know a few reasons why the Lord's counsel to a lazy man is: “Go to the ant, thou sluggard!”

14. What does a sluggard spend much of his time doing? _____ * While the ant is laboring - a sluggard is sleeping.