

Value the church: *Stewardship*

LESSON AT A GLANCE	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <p>Keep in mind, as you discuss and teach today's lesson: All that we have is from God and belongs to Him. He has trusted us to steward it all properly for His purpose.</p>	<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What am I a steward of? ➤ How do I become a responsible steward? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I am a steward of all God has given me. ➤ By becoming increasingly aware that what God has given me is intended to accomplish His purpose. <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IGNITE Bible ➤ Chart paper or whiteboard <p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bible: Psalm 24:1; Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Peter 4:10-11
PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)	
	<p>Do you know that you've been entrusted by God with His possessions? How do you properly care for all that is His? This week we will be talking stewardship. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.</p>
POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary. • Consider including the link to Episode 35 of For Your Journey Stewardship of time and encourage families to watch and discuss the episode together. 	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week the "I wonder..." questions are about stewardship and recognizing how to properly steward all that God has given. This week consider having a discussion with your student about stewardship and list everything that you have received from Him as a family. As always, if you have any question about the topic, feel free to contact us.</p> <p>Your Youth Leaders</p>

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday’s sermon? ➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn? ➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday? ➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
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HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How are you and how are you feeling today? ➤ Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week? ➤ Ask the students: Who do you know that you would consider to be a ‘responsible’ person? Why do you consider them responsible?
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SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preview the “I wonder” questions with the students. 	<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What am I a steward of? ➤ How do I become a responsible steward?
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LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider writing the student’s answers on a whiteboard, and supplement or summarize with the bullet points. • Consider reading “Flashpoint: Kindness” on page 1001 of the IGNITE Bible for a call to steward opportunities. • For more information on stewarding time, consider watching Episode 35 of For Your Journey Stewardship of time. 	<p>Student Question #1 – Who is a steward?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A steward is an old English term describing a person responsible for managing the property of another. ➤ Simply put, a steward is someone who manages the possession of another with the highest level of trust. ➤ Stewardship begins with the knowledge that God has called us to follow a unique path of service and love to Him and to others, according to the teachings of Jesus Christ. ➤ Stewardship is the care and management of that which belongs to another. ➤ He has given us many gifts to equip us on our paths. <p>Student Question #2 – What has God given to us?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God has gifted us with everything that we have. While He has put it into our care, everything we have is His. (Psalm 24:1 – The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.) ➤ God has given us the gift of our physical existence; our time; the grace of Jesus; the presence of the Holy Spirit; our unique spiritual giftedness; our relationships (parents, siblings, family, friends, time); our wealth or material possessions.
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- Remind students that a parable is not an actual account, but an illustration or story using real-world examples in order to teach a point.

- The following VISION Newsletter editions have articles on stewardship, if you are looking for more context/information or if you'd like to assign follow up reading to the students. An archive of VISION Newsletters is available at <https://ndi.nac-usa.org/en/resources/read/vision-newsletter> and in the [NAC USA mobile app](#).
 - Autumn 2012
 - Winter 2015
 - Autumn 2015
 - Spring 2016

- These things really belong to Him, not to us. As children of God and disciples of Jesus, we are stewards of all these things.

Student Question #3 – Why does God provide us with and put us in charge of all these things?

- God has given us all that we have in order for us to glorify Him and to serve His purpose.
- We begin to recognize that all we have is God's and that we are to use what He has given for His purpose when we understand the Gospel and recognize how faith in Jesus Christ not only changes our relationship with God, but it also changes our relationship with everything else.
- We know that we are living and stewarding according to His purpose when our lives are fruitful.

Read together the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30

Ask the students some questions like:

- Have you heard this story before?
- What are the lessons to be learned from the story?
- Which was the good steward?

Student Question #4 – How do I become a responsible steward?

- Each servant received something different "to each according to his own ability" from his "lord." We see here that not everyone receives the same gifts.
- The lord of the parable then leaves these servants to care for his talents "in trust" during his absence.
- But each one is expected to give an accounting for their use of the lord's talent. He expected them to be good stewards over His gifts.
- It was not acceptable to ignore the talent or to plead ignorance as to what to do with it.
- Work of developing the discipline of stewardship by asking God to help you use what He has provided you with as you become bombarded with requests.
- Recognize and use your spiritual gifts to help your congregation and to share the gospel in your community.
- Share with a purpose – To make Jesus known and glorify God.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

• **1 Peter 4:10-11:** God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

Wrap up the lesson with this question: Do you recognize that everything you have today and everything you'll have in the future belongs to God and has been given to you for His glory? Are you being a good steward?

- Read 1 Peter 4:10-11 together.

Close with the "I Wonder..." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to surrendering themselves to God in belief and obedience.

I wonder...

- What am I a steward of?
- How do I become a responsible steward?

I believe...

- I am a steward of all God has given me.
- By becoming increasingly aware that what God has given me is intended to accomplish His purpose.

Point to Ponder...

- What has God given you to be a steward of?

A Call to Action...

- Pick one of the items you've listed from the 'Point to Ponder' and make a plan of how to be a better steward of that item/relationship over the next 6 months. What is the next level of responsibility for that area of your life?

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

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I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ What am I a steward of?➤ How do I become a responsible steward?	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ I am a steward of all God has given me.➤ By becoming increasingly aware that what God has given me is intended to accomplish His purpose.
References: Psalm 24:1; Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Peter 4:10-11	

1. Who is a steward?

2. What has God given to us?

3. Why does God provide us with and put us in charge of all these things?

4. How do I become a responsible steward?

Point to Ponder: What has God given you to be a steward of?

Call to Action: Pick one of the items you've listed from the 'Point to Ponder' and make a plan of how to be a better steward of that item/relationship over the next 6 months. What is the next level of responsibility for that area of your life?