

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Are you a good steward of what God has entrusted to you? How can you take responsibility for your family, career, studies, talents, and time? Think of one specific area where you can be a better steward.

2. Are you reliable and consistent? Does your character reflect good stewardship? What is one “little thing” that you need to do differently?

3. Do you take care of other people’s property? Are you a good steward only of what you have, or also of everything around you?

PRAYER

On the space provided below, record prayer requests and answers to prayer.



The Principles of Stewardship

WARM-UP

1. Have you borrowed something from a friend and you forgot to return it (or worse, lost it)? What happened?

2. What is your most prized possession? Why?

3. Who is the most trustworthy person you know? Share an instance explaining this.

WORD

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

Matthew 25:21
(Read also Matthew 25:14-29.)

Jesus taught His disciples about stewardship by using many parables and stories—about the shrewd and dishonest manager, the lost coin, the lost sheep, and this one in Matthew 25, the parable of the talents. A steward takes responsibility for, manages, and is in charge of the land, finances, and other important matters entrusted to his/her care. As God’s people, we have also been entrusted with many blessings and we are to be good stewards. In this lesson, we will look at four principles of stewardship so we can become the stewards God intended us to be.

1. We are stewards, not owners.

The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it . . .

Psalm 24:1

¹⁴*“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.*

¹⁵*To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.”*

Matthew 25:14,15

God is the source of everything, and He remains the sole owner. Everything comes from God and still belongs to Him. We, on the other hand, are managers and stewards. What are we stewards of?

2. Stewards are accountable.

“So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’”

Luke 16:2

As stewards, we will give an account to God, our master. We are not entitled to the blessings God has given us, things that we have only because of His grace. How did the master reply to the man who put his talents to good use (Matthew 25:21)?

3. Stewardship is all about trust.

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”

Luke 16:10

“For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. . . .”

Matthew 25:29

God looks at how we handle the little things before He entrusts us with bigger things. How we take responsibility for our studies, careers, time, relationships, talents, and finances matters to God. What does “trust” mean? How can someone be worthy of your trust?

4. Stewardship is about the little things.

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”

Luke 16:10

Good stewards take care of every detail, and trust begins with the small things. If we can be trusted with little, what does Jesus promise? What are some of the “little things” in our lives that can make a big difference?
