

WEEK ONE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Stewardship Is Discipleship

February 12, 2023

What is a disciple?

- a **follower** or a **learner** (Matthew 28:18-20)

steward = "manager"

- *Greek for "steward" means to govern, oversee, administer, or manage. Its most literal translation would be "house manager," not to be confused with "housekeeper."*

GSFBC Mission: *Glorify God by making disciples who love God and love others.*

Stewardship Lifestyle: Time, Talent, Treasure.

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

- *What are some ways we steward/manage our time that glorify God?*

1. Spend Time with God.

- Matthew 22:34-37
- *Why is it important for believers to spend time with God on a daily (regular) basis?*

2. Worship and engage in biblical community with other believers.

- Hebrews 10:25-26
- *What are some things you can do/have done to make this a priority in your own life?*

WEEK ONE SUNDAY SCHOOL

3. Make time to serve others and share the gospel with unbelievers.

- John 13:14; Colossians 4:5-6; I Peter 3:15; Ephesians 5:15
- *What are some ways you have invested time serving others either IN or OUT of the church?*

STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT

God not only calls you to love and serve others (Matthew 22 & John 13), He also gave you a unique **SHAPE** to accomplish that work!

Spiritual Gifts (unique giftings given to every believer by the Holy Spirit)

- I Corinthians 12, Romans 12:3-8, Ephesians 4:11-16.

Heart (passion or burden for specific: people, groups, life stages, life situations, activities)

Abilities (natural talents, skills, and giftedness)

- Exodus 31:2-6; 35:25-26; 35:34 (Exodus 31:1-11; 35:10-19, 25-26; 35:30 – 36:2; 36:8)

Personality

- Psalm 139:14

Experiences

- *“God never wastes a hurt.”*
- *“It’s okay to not be okay because NO ONE is okay.”*
- *“Walk toward the messes!”*

WEEK ONE SUNDAY SCHOOL

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- *How do you feel about obedience? Why do you feel the way you do?*

- *What things about Jesus' character, nature, and person cause us to want to follow Him? Are you reflecting those traits and characteristics in your own life?*

- List one area that you feel you reflect well and one where you know you need to grow.

- *How are you prioritizing spending time with God? What changes, adjustments, or sacrifices do you need to make spending time with God a greater priority in your life?*

- Think about your SHAPE for ministry (<https://www.freeshapetest.com>).
 - Do you know, and how are you using, your Spiritual Gifts?
 - <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/>
 - <https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/women-leadership-spiritual-gifts-growth-service>

WEEK ONE SUNDAY SCHOOL

- *As you think about your unique “heart,” consider your thoughts, feelings, experience, and history with the things listed below.*

People

Babies/Preschoolers
Children
Teens/Young Adults
Special Needs
Senior Adults
Widows
Orphans
Other....

Cause

Abortion
Single Moms
Homeless/Poverty
Human Trafficking
Leading Small Group
Fostering/Adoption
Marriage/Parenting
Other....

Activity/Service

Teaching (people/topic)
Mentoring
Counseling
Teaching Finances
Acts of Service
Worship
Administration
Other...

- *What unique skills, abilities, or talents has God blessed you with, and how are you using those to serve Him and love others?*
 - <https://www.marcusbuckingham.com/gift-of-standout/>
- *Do you know your personality type? (Enneagram, DISC, Myers-Briggs) What are some of the strengths/weaknesses of your personality type?*
 - <https://uniquelyyou.org> (Spiritual Gifts & DISC Personality assessment – fee)
 - <https://www.eclecticenergies.com/enneagram/test> (free tests)
- *What are 3-5 of the most significant experiences of your life? Are there ways you can help others in similar situations by sharing your experiences with them?*

WEEK TWO SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Bible & Money

February 19, 2023

"It's not supposed to hurt there!"

Why do you think some people respond so critically and negatively to the topic of financial stewardship being taught in the church?

Giving Myth #1 – *"All the Pastor ever talks about is money!"*

Giving Myth #2 – *"The Bible doesn't even talk about money (or material possessions)" or "The Bible doesn't talk about money (or material possessions) that much."*

The Bible THOROUGHLY addresses the topic of money and possessions:

- There are over 2,300 verses in the Bible that reference money.
- A number of Jesus' parables address financial issues or use money/possessions to highlight man's propensity to sin involving money and possessions (Unforgiving Servant, Laborers in the Vineyard, The Prodigal Son, Tenant Farmers, Parable of the Talents).
- 20% of God's first laws to govern his people are warnings about material possessions – Command #8 (Do not steal) and Command #10 (do not covet).
- The book of Proverbs, from King Solomon – the 2nd wisest man to ever live – has over 90 verses that teach, direct, command, or offer wisdom on financial issues.

WEEK TWO SUNDAY SCHOOL

"Why does the Bible talk so much about money and possessions?" (Exodus 20:34; Matthew 6:24)

Biblical principles on stewardship.

1. God owns it ALL!

- Psalm 24:1; Deuteronomy 10:14; Job 41:11; Psalm 50:10-12; Luke 12:6-7
- Genesis 1; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17

2. We were stewards before we were sinners.

- Genesis 1:25-26

3. Sacrificial giving reflects the character and nature of God.

- Romans 5:8, John 3:16

4. God blesses our stewardship in any area of life.

- Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- *How do you feel about giving? Why do you feel that way, particularly if there are negative feelings? (Remember: It's not supposed to hurt there!)*

WEEK TWO SUNDAY SCHOOL

- *Which one is the easiest for you to remember (and practice), and which is the most difficult for you?*

- *If you have been giving on a regular basis, how have you seen God's hand of provision in this area of your life? If you haven't been giving on a regular basis, what has stood out to you from the giving testimonies you've heard during our **Next Steps Generosity Initiative** (Proverbs 22:9)?*

WEEK THREE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Excel...In Your Giving

February 26, 2023

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

1. Giving is not easy. (v. 2)

2. Giving is an act of worship and obedience to God above all else. (v. 5)

3. Grow, mature, and “excel” in every area – including generosity (giving) – of your spiritual life. (v. 7)

4. Obedience blesses the giver and the receiver. (v. 8-11)
 - What are the “benefits” or “blessings” the giver experiences when he/she is faithful in his/her giving?
 - Acts 4:32-37 “There was not a needy person among them” (v. 34).

Today's Truths

- A. Giving is an act of worship and praise to God for all that He has done for us through Jesus.
- B. Disciples of Jesus grow and mature in their obedience in every area of life – including giving.

What are your Next Steps of obedience in your walk with Jesus?

WEEK THREE SUNDAY SCHOOL

- *What are your thoughts on being challenged to “excel in your giving” as part of discipleship? Have you “plateaued” or gone on “auto pilot” in this area of your spiritual life? Do you have possessions that you try to exclude from God’s ownership?*

- Think about giving as an act of worship.
 - *What possible significance could our gifts have to God?*

 - *What determines a gift’s value to God?*

WEEK FOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Character over Coinage

March 5, 2023

A. Christ-like character and integrity should be reflected in how we manage (steward) our (God's) money.

PRINCIPLES FOR THE CHURCH IN MANAGING FINANCES:

1. The character of those managing funds is of the utmost importance.

2. Plurality of leadership.

- Proverbs 15:22; Exodus 18 (Moses & Jethro); Acts 15; Acts 14:23; Philippians 1:1)

PRINCIPLES FOR INDIVIDUALS IN MANAGING FINANCES:

1. Have a right perspective.

- Spiritual is more important than the material.
- Character matters more than profits and portfolios.
- *"God doesn't care if his people have money, but he hates it when money has his people."* Dave Ramsey
- Proverbs 11:4; 15:16, 16:16, 17:16, 22:1; Matthew 6:1-4; 6:19-24; 6:33.

2. Give.

- Luke 12:16-21, *"So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."*
- Proverbs 3:9-10; 11:24; 14:31; 28:22; 25:25.
- Matthew 23:23; Luke 12:48

WEEK FOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

3. Manage your money and avoid debt.

- Proverbs 6:6; 20:4; 21:5; 21:20
- *"Money is a great servant, but a terrible boss!"*
- *"He who fails to plan, plans to fail."*
- *"He who aims at nothing hits it every time!"*
- I Timothy 5:6-10
- Proverbs 22:7.

B. Your example of a Stewardship Lifestyle will encourage, inspire, and motivate others.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Joseph is a great example of a godly steward who exercised character in his leadership and management and was blessed by God as a result. You can read his story in Genesis 39 – 41.
 - *What actions in Joseph's life should we follow in order to be faithful stewards, with high character, over what God has entrusted to us?*
 - *What do you think kept Joseph from getting angry with God and turning away when his circumstances weren't good?*

WEEK FOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

- *How does it make you feel to know that God trusts you in His work? (Reminder: Americans are some of the wealthiest people in the world.)*
- *On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate yourself on managing your money? If your assessment isn't where you want it to be, what steps do you need to take to improve?*
- *What would those closest to you say about your attitude toward money? What do your monthly expenditures reveal about your attitude and priorities regarding money?*
- *Do you think of yourself as a generous person? Why or why not? Would others agree? Why or why not?*

WEEK FOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

- *Do you think it's important be considered a generous person? Why or why not?*

- *How has your faith been strengthened by someone else's generosity?*

- *If you don't have plans to manage your assets upon your passing, what do you need to do to make those preparations (documents and legal issues, but also in training others and communicating your wishes to them)? If you have made plans, do you need to review things and make any edits or changes?*

WEEK FIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Abounding in ALL!

March 12, 2023

How has God spoken to you during our time in the Next Steps Generosity Initiative?

1. What kind of harvest do you want? (v. 6)

2. What kind of giver are you? (v. 7)

- “cheerful” = hilarious
- Our giving should be...
 - a. A personal decision that we make on our own (“give as he had decided in his heart”)
 - b. With a right motive (“not reluctantly or under compulsion”)
- Acts 5:1-11; Matthew 6:1-4.

3. How full is God’s provision in our lives, in every way? (v. 8-10)

- Highlight, circle, underline the words in these next verses that describe the capacity and fullness of God in the lives of his people.
- *“You can’t outgive God!”*
- Exodus 36:5-7

WEEK FIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL

4. How does giving impact the giver? (v. 11-15)

- a. We give faithfully, generously, and sacrificially.
 - b. God blesses that generosity.
 - c. His generosity to us motivates us to be even more generous.
 - d. Our generosity touches the lives of others who give thanks to God (believers) and respond to the Gospel (unbelievers) because of how He used us to help them.
 - e. Seeing and hearing people respond to the gospel and giving thanks to God because of our obedience leads us to want to give thanks to God for all He has bestowed upon us – by grace – and leads us to give EVEN MORE, which repeats the cycle all over again!
- *How are you going to respond to the teaching you've heard?*

 - *Where are you in your giving now, and what are your Next Steps of obedience, maturity, sacrifice, and generosity?*

WEEK FIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What (and also Who) comes to mind when you hear the term “cheerful giver”?

- In what area of your life have you seen the principle of the harvest at work as you gave to God your Time, Talent, or Treasure?

- Are you as generous to God as you are with yourself?

- Is my giving a true expression of my life, labor, and love, or is it a token?

- Paul was very clear about God’s ability to provide for His children in ALL things.
 - *Are there areas of your life where you are “holding back” or not fully surrendering to God?
What are those areas?*

WEEK FIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL

- *What is keeping me from fully trusting God with all that I have, including my finances?*

- "Giving impacts the giver."
 - *How do you feel about money? Why do you feel this way?*

 - *What problems come to those who think too much of money? Those who don't think enough about money?*

- Jesus told the Rich Young Ruler to go and sell all he had. The widow dropped in her last two coins which, according to Jesus, "Was all she had to live on."
 - *If Jesus called you to get rid of all you had, could you do it? Why or why not?*

 - *Chances are Jesus won't call you to get rid of all you have, but He may be calling you to give more than you currently are – will you take the **Next Steps** of obedience?*