



Free Bible Study on Stewardship

What makes this different? You compare up to five short scripture readings (which you can also mix and match). Ask participants what questions they have and would like to discuss. Then use some of our questions or add your own for an informal, ready-made Bible study.

If you have participants less familiar with the Bible, you can have these readings printed and read during your meeting time. Questions that are discussed are based on their needs and interests.

If you have participants used to the rigor and format of Disciple, give them the readings to use as a daily devotion and then come together to discuss the questions in depth (since they will have already completed the readings).

Leader's Guide Questions

Questions for Each Week: What did you notice about these readings together? What stood out for you from a particular story? When you look at where this is in the Bible (what comes before and after this scripture), what else do you notice or learn?

How would you apply these readings? What more do you want to learn? What are the results of the actions of each person in the story? In what ways did that person grow or change? What are some experiences that you know of like those in the stories? What encourages and challenges us here? How can we respond? How does God call the church to respond? What can we pray?

Questions for Week One: What is the purpose of managing what we have? What are some other terms besides stewardship and management that helps us define caring for what God gives? What is the best way to use what we have been given? When and where do we give? Do we manage in order to give more or save more? What's the difference in how we manage based on our motivations and goals? How can we store up and give to alleviate spiritual as well as physical famines?

Questions for Week Two: What do you think the widow told her neighbors? Why did she need to borrow from others? How did the offering of two cents affect the widow? What do you think she gave next? Why? In what ways is the story different if the boy gave his loaves and fish or was asked to give his loaves and fish? How does it change our story to give or to give after being asked? What belongs to God that we haven't given? Do we tithe before or after taxes? Why do people get upset at someone else's choice of offering recipient?

For more information or to receive other educational resources, please contact The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation at 1-800-272-0113 or <http://www.umstewardship.org/contact/>



Leader's Guide Questions for Bible Study on Stewardship (Page 2)

Questions for Week Three: What kinds of giving do you see around the church? How do they complement each other? How do we act out Acts? Why did it work then? When have you seen giving that goes beyond the expected or possible? What inspires that kind of giving today? What would happen if we were told to stop giving because everyone had given so much? Where do we have too many resources in one place or time? How do we know when our priorities are misplaced? What kind of building do we need to do that is not focused on the physical facility itself? What helps us manage God's gifts for his glory?

Questions for Week Four: How do we know what to accept from others? Where do we need to resist benefitting from others? Why do you think people don't take God seriously? What are the wrong reasons to offer gifts in public? What are the right reasons? Why do we compare our offering to others? What are our best offerings? How do we know whether God is pleased with our offerings? How do we know whether he is pleased with our stewardship? When is re-gifting not the best stewardship? Why is sacrificial giving praiseworthy?

Bonus Reading Questions: What if you replaced the word "Son" or "Samaritan" with steward? What does it mean in the church to spend too much for yourself or to save too much for yourself? What is the difference between saving and hoarding? How do we evaluate our motivations and expectations from our stewardship? What difference does it make whether we spend too much or save too much?

What does it mean to take care of others as being a "good steward"? How do we do this? When, where and why? In what ways do we promote awareness so that we aren't too focused on ourselves (like prodigal stewards) or too unaware of others' needs (like "busy religious stewards")?



**FREE BIBLE STUDY
ON STEWARDSHIP
LIST OF READINGS
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Week One Readings: Management as Giving and Vice Versa

Shrewd Manager (Luke 16:1-15)
The Talentless One (Matthew 25:14-30)
Building Foolishness (Luke 12:16-21)
Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44-46)
Preparing for Hard Times (Genesis 41:28-57)

Week Two Readings: Individual Giving

Miracle Oil (2 Kings 4:1-7)
Giving Two Cents' Worth (Luke 21:1-4)
Boy's Lunch (John 6:1-14)
Tax Return (Luke 19:1-10)
Annoyed at Anointing (Matthew 26:6-13)

Week Three: Corporate Giving

Offering Work (2 Chronicles 24:8-14)
Share and Share Alike (Acts 2:37-47)
Giving an Example (2 Corinthians 8:1-15)
Enough Giving (Exodus 36:1-7)
First Things First (Haggai 1:2-14)

Week Four: Giving of Others

Profit Prophet (2 Kings 5:9-27)
Wrong Impression (Acts 5:1-11)
Offering Envy (Genesis 4:1-7)
Giving What's Due (Matthew 17:24-27)
Sacrificial Offering (2 Samuel 24:18-25)

Bonus:

Prodigal "Sons" (Luke 15:11-32)
Good "Samaritan" (Luke 10:25-37)