

Living Each Day as a Steward! *A three-week stewardship program*

Thank you for downloading the *Living Each Day as a Steward!* sample packet.
This packet includes:

- † **Samples of several of the resources provided so the reader can evaluate writing style, tone, etc.**
- † **The program instructions and timeline appear at the end of this packet, which provide a detailed description of the program, included program resources, and a timeline of program implementation.**

**If you would like additional information,
please visit our website or call us toll-free at 888-320-5576.**



Living Each Day as a Steward!

Lay Reader Presentation – Third Week of Program

A Lifestyle of Giving

In your worship folder, you will find a tri-fold brochure titled “The Steward’s Lifestyle” (hold up). Please read it during this coming week.

To live each day as a steward means that we develop a lifestyle of stewardship. For most of us, the biggest challenge of living a lifestyle of stewardship is to give generously of the money that God has entrusted to us. Giving is not a natural inclination. Because of our self-interests, we are inclined to take care of ourselves first and others second. If we rely on our own strength to give, we are likely to hoard what we have. When we give generously to God by supporting our church and helping the needy, we show that our faith and trust are in him rather than in our money and possessions.

We need to remember that God wants us; He wants the givers, not the gifts from the givers. He doesn’t need our gifts, but we have a need to give. When Jesus asked the rich young man in Mark chapter 10 to give all that he had to the poor, he went away sad because he was unable to give up his possessions. The rich young man didn’t possess his possessions; they possessed him. When the heart of Zacchaeus was changed, he willingly gave half of his possessions to the poor. This transformation in Zacchaeus was remarkable because before that time, his money had been his life, but, having experienced Jesus’ love for him, his gratitude to Jesus changed his perspective on both money and possessions. His giving revealed a new heart.

We are enabled to give because of who God is and what he has done for us. “*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*” (John 3:16). We can love “*because he first loved us*” (1 John 4:19). As recipients of God’s grace and love, we are empowered to share God’s gifts with others.

May God help us all **live each day as a steward** as we give generously of our time and our money.

Living Each Day as a Steward!

Letter to thank members who did not turn in a commitment form

Sent two weeks after Commitment Sunday with another form

Dear Member,

“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because...of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints” (Colossians 1:3-4). Through the faithful stewardship of the Body of Christ here at _____ (church name) _____, we are able to proclaim the Gospel here and in the mission field, both in word and in deed.

During our recent stewardship program, ***Living Each Day as a Steward!***, we have focused on how Christ calls and enables us to be his stewards. With transformed hearts, we express our faith in the way we live our lives. Stewardship is our response to the faith that God gives us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Through faith, we are God’s stewards each and every day. We commit our lives, our gifts, and our resources to serving the Lord.

How shall we respond to God’s love and faithfulness to us? Are you willing to make a commitment to him? Your commitment card has not yet been received. Perhaps you’re still praying about it; maybe you’ve forgotten it; maybe it’s been lost. We are enclosing another commitment form and ask that you complete it and either mail yours or return it to the church office at your earliest convenience. In order to carry on the ministry that Christ has commissioned to us (Matthew 28:19-20), we need your support.

Thank you and may God continue to help you be the steward that he has created you to be.

In Christ,

Pastor _____

Living Each Day as a Steward!

Sermon - First Sunday

“The Steward’s Identity Shapes Giving”

Grace, mercy, and peace be to all of you from God our Father, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and may his Spirit fill your heart and your mind in the hearing of his Word. Amen.

The text is from **1 Corinthians 16:1**

Today is the first week on the theme **living each day as a steward**. Our text for is taken from 1 Corinthians 16:1 *“Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.”* I hope and pray that the message today titled “The Steward’s Identity Shapes Giving” as well as those messages you’ll hear over the next two Sundays will help us become people who **live each day as stewards**.

Unfortunately, some people feel uncomfortable during stewardship sermons. Many Christians have misconceptions and misunderstandings and have been misdirected about what stewardship is so they often react negatively when it’s talked about. One of the major misconceptions is that it deals strictly with money; or more precisely, the church’s lack of money and how it can get more. As I speak to you today, it is my hope and prayer that I can help you disconnect stewardship from the idea that it is only about “paying the bills.” At the heart of stewardship is a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus. I am convinced that there is little in life that can help us grow in our relationship with Jesus more than good, solid, intentional Biblical stewardship. The goal of the stewardship ministry in our church is to help us grow in our relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and treasures that God has entrusted to us.

For this morning let’s put all of our notions and ideas about stewardship aside. Let’s start all over with our understanding of stewardship by getting back to basics, back to God’s Word.

First of all, God has called and chosen us to be his stewards. God has placed us in the role and has given us our identity as his stewards. It is first being a steward before it is doing stewardship. Who we are determines what we do. Everything we do, everything we say, and everywhere we go emanates from our sense of identity. Understanding whose we are and our identity as God’s stewards, we seek to please him by faithfully doing his will

As stewards, we oversee or manage everything that the Lord has given us, which is everything that we are and have. Then we are to see to it that it’s used in the most useful

important, to be respected, even to be envied. That's not how it works, though. God owns everything, "*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof...*" (Psalm 24:1). "*The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts*" (Haggai 2:8). No, nothing is ours, but God has given us the high calling of stewards. "*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit...*" (John 15:16).

From the beginning God called us to be stewards: "*Let [man] have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth*" (Genesis 1:26). With such a high calling comes responsibility. With such high honor comes accountability: "*Moreover,*" writes the Apostle Paul, "*it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy*" (1 Corinthians 4:2). May we, like the two faithful stewards we read about in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-10), hear our Master's gracious words, "*Well done, good and faithful servant.*"

Conclusion

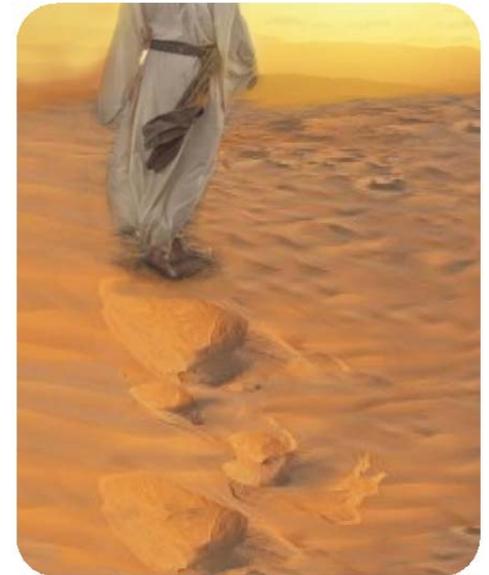
Bear fruit: that's what stewards do. But not on our own! God calls us, appoints us, equips us, and gives us the gifts we need to be faithful stewards. We are to preach, teach, help the helpless, serve the hungry in

body and spirit, give our time, our energies, our talents, our money – all because God "*desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*" (1 Timothy 2:4). He wants all his heirs to receive what is promised them, all to find fulfillment in **living each day as stewards.**

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*Living Each
Day as a
Steward!*



*The
Steward's
Identity*

God's Children

Living Each Day as a Steward! Bible Study

The Steward's Lifestyle

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, help us to **live each day as stewards** of your creation. We pray for your continued strength and support as we reflect your presence in our lives through the lifestyles we live. By your grace, we pray that our lives will properly reflect your love to others. Lord, we ask for your blessings on this study. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Objectives of Study:

To help God's people...

- understand that, as he transforms us, we are new people in Christ.
- understand that practicing spiritual disciplines enables us to allow God to work in and through us.
- understand what it means to walk humbly with God.
- understand what it means to live a contented life.

Introduction

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, our minds are being transformed so we may learn what God's will and purpose are for his stewards. We come to see that a good deed here and there is not what God wants of us or for us. God's Word exhorts us, "*Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is*" (Ephesians 5:17). Understanding the Lord's will involves looking at the way we view life, our whole human vocation, the ordering of our lives, and the deployment of all of God's blessings. All these are from God's gracious hand that we may use them throughout each day as we go about our daily work. Just as Jesus came to do his Father's will (Hebrews 10:7), we are also called to do his will. "*But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves*" (James 1:22).

As Christians, we live our lives under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Being free from the law of sin, we now walk after the Holy Spirit who causes us to live in Christ. Because God sent us his Son as our sin offering, we no longer "*live according to our sinful nature*" (Romans 8:4). Since our sinful nature no longer controls us, our lifestyles reflect the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our minds are set on doing what the Spirit desires. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we are taught to put off "*[our] old self, which belongs to [our] former manner of life and is corrupt...and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness*" (Ephesians 4:22-23).

Living Each Day as a Steward!

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...”

1 Corinthians 16:2 1:10

Percentage Giving <i>Firstfruits, Proportionate and Generous</i> (Expressed in \$ commitment per week)												
Annual Income	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10% Tithe	11%	12%
\$ 15,000	2.88	5.77	8.65	11.54	14.42	17.31	20.19	23.08	25.96	28.85	31.73	34.62
\$ 20,000	3.85	7.69	11.54	15.38	19.23	23.08	26.92	30.77	34.62	38.46	42.31	46.15
\$ 25,000	4.81	9.62	14.42	19.23	24.04	28.85	33.65	38.46	43.27	48.08	52.880	57.69
\$ 30,000	5.77	11.52	17.31	23.08	28.85	34.62	40.38	46.15	51.92	57.69	63.46	69.23
\$ 35,000	6.73	13.46	20.19	26.92	33.65	40.38	47.12	53.85	60.58	67.31	74.04	80.77
\$ 40,000	7.69	15.38	23.08	30.77	38.46	46.15	53.85	61.54	69.23	76.92	84.62	92.31
\$ 45,000	8.65	17.31	25.96	34.62	43.27	51.92	60.58	69.23	77.88	86.54	95.19	103.85
\$ 50,000	9.62	19.23	28.85	38.46	48.08	57.69	67.31	76.92	86.54	96.15	105.77	115.38
\$ 55,000	10.58	21.15	31.73	42.31	52.88	63.46	74.04	84.62	95.19	105.77	116.35	126.92
\$ 60,000	11.54	23.08	34.62	46.15	57.69	69.23	80.77	92.31	103.85	115.38	126.92	138.46
\$ 70,000	13.46	26.92	40.38	53.85	67.31	80.77	94.23	107.69	121.15	134.62	148.08	161.54
\$ 80,000	15.38	30.77	46.15	61.54	76.92	92.31	107.69	123.08	138.46	153.85	169.23	184.62
\$ 90,000	17.31	34.62	51.92	69.23	86.54	103.85	121.15	138.46	155.77	173.08	190.38	207.69
\$100,000	19.23	38.46	57.69	76.92	96.15	115.38	134.62	153.85	173.08	192.30	211.54	230.77

parish

Living Each Day as a Steward!

A Three-Week Stewardship Program



“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

1 Peter 4:10

Overview and Instructions

Program Themes and Goal

Living Each Day as a Steward! is a three-week stewardship program emphasizing the three themes of:

A Steward's Identity. We don't really want to be stewards. Our first impulse is that we want to be the owners. We want to have possession of things. We want to be important, to be respected, and even to be envied. That's not how it works, though. God owns everything, "*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof...*" (Psalm 24:1).

A Steward's Purpose. King David wrote, "*The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me*" (Psalm 138:8). Just as God had a purpose for David, so he has for us as well. Have we given much thought to what purpose God may have for your life? By grace, we understand that we were created for God's purpose, not ours.

A Steward's Lifestyle. When God's grace and love fill our hearts and minds, our stewardship is not limited to specific acts, but, instead, becomes a lifestyle. With transformed hearts, we express our faith in the way we live our lives. Through faith, God provides motivation and power to live the Christian life in a growing awareness of redeeming grace.

During this three-week stewardship program members of the congregation will become better stewards of their time, talents, and treasure, through:

- ✦ **Recognizing** members in your church for their faithful stewardship.
- ✦ **Thanking** your members for their faithfulness as God's stewards.
- ✦ **Encouraging** your members to become more involved by using their time and talents in service within your church.
- ✦ **Growing** in their understanding of what God wants them to be and do as faithful stewards by spending time in the Word.
- ✦ **Giving** the first part of their incomes generously and cheerfully.
- ✦ **Praying** to thank God for the grace that calls and enables God's people to live each day as stewards.
- ✦ **Telling** your members about the mission and ministry of your church.

Bible Study Participation

To grow as stewards, we need to be reading and studying God's Word. Every effort should be made to increase Bible study attendance. Personal invitations will be helpful. To show the importance of Bible study, church leaders should be encouraged to attend. There are three studies to be taught during the three-week program. You may choose to start the studies prior to the start of the program or go beyond the program.

Recognizing Existing Stewards and Encouraging New Ones

The program includes templates to recognize existing stewards in each ministry of the church ... and to encourage others to become better stewards of their time, talent and treasure. These templates can be for handouts, flyers, PowerPoint slides, or bulletin messages.

Time and Talent Survey

With the focus of the first two weeks on time and talent, you may want to have your members fill out a time and talent survey. Include a time and talent survey in each worship bulletin or folder. During the worship service give members a few minutes to complete the survey. Those who are unable to finish may bring them to church the following weekend. There is a time and talent survey included.

Living Each Day as a Steward!

Steward's Day

You may want to consider having a Steward's Day (first Sunday of program is suggested), during which you recognize existing stewards in the church, as well as encourage new stewards to share their time and talent.

This activity will serve as a reminder to members of the importance of being a committed steward. Resources for Steward's Day include handouts, time and talent survey, bulletin/email message and name tags ... all of which can be found in your account at the *Parish Resource Center*.

Sunday of New Beginnings (Commitment Sunday)

Members are encouraged to make financial commitments to the Lord through their church. Commitment forms are to be mailed out just prior to the start of the program along with a commitment letter and the theme essay "*Living Each Day as a Steward!*" Commitment forms should also be distributed with the bulletins/worship folders on Commitment Sunday.

Every effort should be made to make the "Sunday of New Beginnings" a special and meaningful day. To show the joy and importance of making a commitment to the Lord, you may want to have balloons and/or other decorations. You could provide some special snacks. Some churches have found that inviting a special guest preacher is helpful. You may want to celebrate the "Sunday of New Beginnings" with a special catered luncheon or have a potluck luncheon.



Living Each Day as a Steward!

Program Resources

Downloadable in your account at the *Parish Resource Center*

Resources – General

- ✚ Program Instructions and Timeline
- ✚ Program images (5, high-resolution)
- ✚ Follow-up letters
- ✚ Percentage giving chart

Resources to Launch Program

- ✚ Theme Essay “*Living Each Day as a Steward!*” (Kick-off with commitment form)
- ✚ Commitment form (2 formats)
- ✚ “Steward’s Day” name tags (To be printed on any Avery 2 x 4 inch label sheets)
- ✚ Newsletter article
- ✚ Bulletin cover
- ✚ Bulletin message
- ✚ Kick-off Letter from the Pastor

Resources for EACH of the Three Weeks of the Program

- ✚ Theme essay (in both letter and tri-fold formats):
 - The Steward’s Identity (Week 1)*
 - The Steward’s Purpose (Week 2)*
 - The Steward’s Lifestyle (Week 3)*
- ✚ Bulletin cover
- ✚ Bulletin messages
- ✚ Children’s Lesson
- ✚ Lay reader presentation
- ✚ Sermon
- ✚ Worship suggestions

Additional Resources

- ✚ Recognition templates (May be used on Steward’s Day or throughout program.)
- ✚ Time and Talent survey (May be used on Steward’s Day or second Sunday.)
- ✚ Steward’s Day Resources for first Sunday
 - Steward’s Day bulletin/email message
 - Steward’s Day name tags
- ✚ Bible studies (3)
 - Includes answer book
- ✚ 28-page Daily devotions book to be printed or emailed (2 sizes included)

Living Each Day as a Steward!

Program Time Line

Launching the Program

Bible Studies & Devotional Book	Either print or prepare to e-mail the Bible studies and devotional book.
Commitment forms	Print Commitment Forms (on card stock, if desired)
Recognition Templates	Prepare and create recognition handouts/slides/flyers for each ministry of the church.
Newsletter Articles	Publish “ <i>Living Each Day as a Steward!</i> ” one month prior to program.
Lay Readers	Identify and prep three Lay Readers.
Letter from Pastor, Commitment Form, and Theme Essay “Living Each Day as a Steward!”	Mail to members so they receive them shortly before the beginning of the program.
Bulletin Messages	Place clipart “Coming Soon! <i>Living Each Day as a Steward!</i> ” in bulletins two to three weeks prior to program. There is a bulletin message for the week prior to the program plus one for each week of the program to be placed in the bulletin.
“Steward’s Day” name tags	Print on 2 x 4 label stock (Any Avery 10 per page sheets)

The Three-Weeks of the Program

First Week <i>Steward’s Day recommended</i>	Distribute Devotional booklets (one per household) Publish bulletin message (and cover) Distribute theme essay “ <i>The Steward’s Identity</i> ” Create Steward’s Day theme and publish or email Steward’s Day message. Present lay reader message: Week 1 Teach children’s lesson Use worship suggestions Preach sermon: “ <i>The Steward’s Identity Shapes Giving</i> ” Teach Bible study Use “Steward’s Day” name tags during Steward’s Day event.
Second Week <i>Time and Talent survey recommended</i>	Publish bulletin message (and cover) Include Time & Talent Survey in bulletin Distribute theme essay: “ <i>The Steward’s Purpose</i> ” Present lay reader message: “ <i>Being a Faithful Steward</i> ” Teach children’s lesson Use worship suggestions Preach sermon: “ <i>The Steward’s Purpose</i> ” Teach Bible study

Living Each Day as a Steward!

Third Week

Sunday of New Beginnings/Commitment Sunday

Publish bulletin message (and cover)

Distribute theme essay: “*The Steward’s Lifestyle*”

Present lay reader message: “*A Lifestyle of Giving*”

Teach children’s lesson

Use worship suggestions

Preach sermon: “*The Steward’s Lifestyle*”

Collect Commitment forms

After the Program

Letter to those not returning a commitment

Send reminder letters to members who failed to return their commitment forms.

Letter to those who turned in a commitment

Send thank-you letters to members who returned commitment forms.

Letter to those were involved.

Send thank-you letters to members who were involved in running the program.



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