



All In

MAKING OUR PASSION
PRACTICAL

STUDY GUIDE

ALL IN: MAKING OUR PASSION PRACTICAL

When you think of stewardship, what comes to mind? Is it giving money? Investing? Leveraging resources? As we hope to demonstrate over the next four weeks, stewardship is broader than you've probably imagined, and certainly more beautiful. It's not a word that should make you feel squeamish as you wait for "the ask." Instead, it should convey the daunting but invigorating experience of living, not simply for yourself, but for God. You see, stewardship—similar to related words like discipleship or lordship—gets after the idea that our life is not our own.

Understanding stewardship moves us into a whole new way of living: a way of following Jesus where He guides, directs, and runs every part of our life, every decision we make, and everything do with the gifts He's given us. The hard part is that in order to follow Jesus in this way, you have to give up thinking about life as "**your**" life. The upside is that life becomes much bigger as you learn to live *for* God, *with* God's help, and *for* God's purposes in each and every circumstance.

Viewing life through the lens of stewardship will work for your good as well as God's glory. What's clear in the Gospels is that everything Jesus touches is made better, whole, and begins to flourish as it lines up with God's original design. This "all-in" mentality of whole-life stewardship offers us hope that, when we allow Jesus to leave His fingerprints on every aspect of our lives, it will always lead to more joy, restoration, bigger possibilities, and a greater good than we can even imagine.

Will it be hard at times? Yes. Will it be worth it all the time? Yes.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Whether you're using this study guide with your family, in a discipleship relationship, or as a Small Group, our hope is that it will help you dive deep into the concept of stewardship and move you towards deeper community. This guide is designed to be a helpful tool in your study, meditation, and application of God's Word.

Our hope for this series is that you seek God's direction for specific ways to obey Him. There may be one specific area God speaks to you about, or there may be several things brought to your attention each week. In either case, our prayer is that we, as a church, approach learning about stewardship seriously and don't stop at simply learning but move toward practicing it together.

WEEKLY STUDY

In addition to application and discussion questions each week, we've included questions and practices for your family to consider so that your kids can join in on learning about and living out biblical stewardship. We've also listed specific next steps to help you personally apply what you are learning. Whether it's choosing a specific application point or coming up with one of your own, we encourage you to find intentional ways to act on and obey God's Word each week.

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The questions below are meant to be a tool to help get into God's Word, but don't feel bound to them or make getting through all of them a concern.

1. Read Gen. 1:26–31 and Gen. 2:7–17. What do these passages say about how mankind is called to relate to God and to God's creation? What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word *stewardship*?
2. In your own words, how would you define stewardship?
3. In Genesis 1 and 2, what things are Adam and Eve called to steward? How would they know they were being faithful stewards?
4. Stewardship reminds us that the Owner of our lives and our possessions wants us to faithfully invest them for His purposes. What's the difference between a *stewardship* mentality and an *ownership* mentality? What areas of your life are you comfortable being the steward? What areas of life is it hard to imagine not being the owner?"
5. What are some of the dangers of an ownership mentality? How have you seen this in your own life? What are some practical ways that you can cultivate a stewardship mentality?
6. How can recognizing that you are accountable to God as a faithful steward affect the way that you live your life, or how should it? Why is accountability helpful for our spiritual and physical health? How can acknowledging God as the ultimate Owner bring freedom from anxiety?
7. Who is someone you know that stands out as an exemplary steward of God's grace and resources? What characteristics make this person stand out?
8. In light of the topic of stewardship, how can you be praying for your brothers and sisters in your Small Group? How can they be praying for you?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

During the series, we want to help your whole family learn about what it means to be a good steward. Here are some questions and activities to help you think about stewardship together.

1. Discuss the following questions with your children:
 - What is a 'steward'? What does a faithful steward do?
 - The Bible teaches that God made and owns everything. How does this affect the way that you look at your things?
 2. Set up an opportunity for your family to learn about stewardship together by serving a neighbor, returning the shopping cart at the grocery, or choosing a ministry to send a gift to.
 3. Give your child/children something that the whole family needs and help them learn how to care for it, share it, use it, and bless others with it. It could be a tube of toothpaste, the silverware, the salt and pepper shaker, or anything else that everyone needs.
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RESPONSE

It's important that we be doers of the Word and not hearers only, so whether you use these specific applications or not, please obey what God purs on your heart through th reading, preaching, and discussing of God's Word.

Over this next week, examine your calendar and your budget. Reflect upon what these two tools reveal about how you are doing as a faithful steward.

Sometime over the course of the next week, go back and re-read or re-watch the sermon to reorient and remind yourself of your important calling as a steward.

Make a plan to grow in stewardship in one small way this week. Here are some suggestions:

- Give a financial gift to a friend in need or to another ministry.
- Take a meal to someone or serve them in another practical way.
- Send an encouraging text or email.
- Invite someone to review your budget or finances to help you assess your heart.
- Pray for God to help you celebrate your God-given role as a faithful steward.

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The questions below are meant to be a tool to help get into God's Word, but don't feel bound to them or make getting through all of them a concern.

1. Read 1 Cor. 4:1–7. According to this passage, what are the *actions* and the *characteristics* of a faithful steward? How does generosity fit with stewardship?
2. How does recognizing that we are recipients of grace connect with the concept of stewardship?
3. In your own words, how would you define *generosity*? What types of things can we be generous with? What is the opposite of generosity? Is it possible to be a steward but not be generous? Why or why not?
4. Read 2 Cor. 9:6–15. According to this passage, what is the *motivation* for generosity?
5. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9 that our generosity leads to God being glorified. How can your generosity lead to God's glory?
6. How does a stewardship mentality lead to generosity? How may an ownership mentality hinder generosity?
7. How does generosity help make the gospel of grace visible? How does the gospel fuel and empower generosity?
8. What promises can you cling to when you are tempted to limit your generosity? Share these with your Small Group or your friend/spouse for mutual encouragement.
9. Think of an instance when you benefited from someone else's generosity. Share your experience with the group. What are practical ways you can remind yourself of God's generosity in your life on a regular basis?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

During the series, we want to help your whole family learn about what it means to be a good steward. Here are some questions and activities to help you think about stewardship together.

1. Discuss the following questions with your children:

- How does knowing that God owns everything connect to our willingness to give our things to those in need?
- Why is it hard for us to share our things with others?
- How can you share something of yours with someone else this next week?

RESPONSE

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- | Memorize 2 Cor. 9:6–8 over the course of this next week.
- | Develop a plan for how you can be more generous with your time, skills, and financial resources in the next month.

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The questions below are meant to be a tool to help get into God's Word, but don't feel bound to them or make getting through all of them a concern.

1. Read Eph. 5:15–17. What does this passage have to say about the way that we should steward our time?
2. Ephesians 5 says that we are to “make the best use of the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:16). How does the reality that the days are evil affect the way that you view the stewardship of your life?
3. Read Rom. 12:1–8. What does this passage say about the way that we should steward our gifts?
4. Spend some time together reflecting on and discussing the gifts God has given to the members of your Small Group. How can you tangibly steward those gifts well? How can you encourage one another to steward your gifts well?
5. How does the Holy Spirit empower you to be a generous steward of your life and time?
6. Have you been a generous steward of your own life and time? Spend some time evaluating your life. What obstacles keep from stewarding your life as God has called you to? How can you overcome those obstacles? Are there any steps or changes that God is prompting you to make?
7. What practical tools have you found helpful in the effort to steward your time well?
8. What is the most challenging thing to being a faithful steward of your life? If a friend looked at your calendar, how would he or she assess whether or not you were faithfully stewarding your time?
9. How can your Small Group pray for one another as you seek to be stewards of your time?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

During the series, we want to help your whole family learn about what it means to be a good steward. Here are some questions and activities to help you think about stewardship together.

1. Discuss the following questions with your children:
 - What has God given you that makes you different from other people?
 - How can you use these things to help people? How can they help you better steward your time?
2. Plan a service project as a family to serve someone in need. Ask your children for ideas as you plan.
3. Ask your children how they can “faithfully steward” their time for God this week. Help support them in their efforts. Help them think of practical and age appropriate ideas (examples: Not watching TV but serving the family or a neighbor; doing chores or household activities joyfully; baking cookies to give away to be a blessing to someone who does not know Jesus).

RESPONSE

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Reflect on the different gifts that God has given to you and develop a plan to use those gifts to build up a fellow brother or sister in Christ in the next week. Make plans and write them down in your calendar this week.

Confess to God ways that you have failed to steward your life well. Be specific. Seek to walk as a faithful steward this week, working specifically on the items you just identified.

Find someone you feel stewards their life and time well, and ask them questions to learn from their example.

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The questions below are meant to be a tool to help get into God's Word, but don't feel bound to them or make getting through all of them a concern.

1. Read 1 Tim. 6:6–10 and 6:17–19. According to this passage, how should faithful stewards view their money?
2. What are the blessings and dangers that come with money? By God's grace, how can we put ourselves in a position to receive these blessings and avoid these dangers?
3. Paul states that godliness with contentment is great gain. What does it mean to be content? What are some ways that you personally fight for contentment in your life?
4. Where do you see discontentment in your life? How does discontentment impact your life as a faithful steward?
5. Paul calls us to put our hope in God, not in our riches. Paul also tells us God richly provides everything for us to enjoy. Does that surprise you? Do you regularly thank God for His good gifts? Why or why not?
6. Read Matt. 6:19–21. What is the relationship between what we value and how we view money?
7. How does your spending reveal what you are worshipping? How have you grown in your faithful stewardship of money? What areas do you still need to grow in? Be specific.
8. Paul calls the rich to be generous with their wealth on earth so they store up treasure in heaven. How does the knowledge of a future reward in heaven motivate you for earthly generosity? How can you grow in thinking about eternal treasures?
9. How can your Small Group members pray for you in regards to money in this next week?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

During the series, we want to help your whole family learn about what it means to be a good steward. Here are some questions and activities to help you think about stewardship together.

1. Discuss the following question with your children:
 - Is money a good thing or a bad thing? Why or why not?
 - Help them to understand that money is a gift from God to be used for the good of others, for our enjoyment, and for His glory.
2. This next week, give your children some money to be used specifically for the sake of generosity. Help them understand the blessing of giving by letting them practice it.
3. As a family, consider beginning a tradition of sending a special gift from your family to a friend in need, a community project, or to a church ministry. Continue to teach them about generosity and faithful stewardship by modeling giving. Invite your children to give, or continue giving, their own money.

RESPONSE

It's important that we be doers of the Word and not hearers only, so whether you use these specific applications or not, please obey what God purs on your heart through th reading, preaching, and discussing of God's Word.

Ask God to give you a desire to be generous and opportunities to be generous with your wealth.

Spend 30 minutes thinking through ways that you can redirect your spending for the purpose of increasing your generosity. Who in your life has a need that you can meet? What ministries can you begin supporting or increasing your support to? What habits of generosity can you begin incorporating into your life?

RESOURCES

BOOKS

Master Your Money by Ron Blue & Jeremy White (foreword by Charles Swindoll)

Your Kids Can Master Their Money by Ron & Judy Blue

Your Money After the Big 50 by Larry Burkett & Ron Blue

The Law of Rewards by Randy Alcorn

The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn

If you have any questions about these resources or any additional resources contact Mark Schuitema at mschuitema@yourchurch.com.

NEXT STEPS

1. Attend God Owns it All class (North Indy)

SUNDAY, MAR. 19 - APR. 9, APR. 23 & APR. 30 // 11:30 // CHAPEL C
BOOK COST: \$10

This 6 week study will give you the opportunity to wrestle with and answer heart-related questions about the Bible and money. You will be confronted with foundational questions about money like:

Who owns it?

How much is enough?

Will it continue to be enough?

Register at yourchurch.com/godownsitall

For info on Fishers Campus future class offerings, contact Dustin Crowe:
dcrowe@yourchurch.com

2. Schedule a Financial Discussion with our Counseling team (All Campus)

Financial Counselors are available at College Park to discuss your concerns with budgeting, savings, retirement and debt management.

Find out more at yourchurch.com/counseling

PRAYERS & PRAISE

#CPCALLIN



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