

Stewardship

purpose: To show that everything belongs to God. As stewards we are responsible to Him for all that He has entrusted to us.

center it: Jesus Christ gave all for us and calls us to be fully surrendered to Him.

*Steward is someone who manages something that doesn't belong to him.

Psalm 24:1

- The earth and all it contains belongs to God.
- **Transition:** How can God say that He owns everything? (2 reasons)

Exodus 20:8-11

- Commandment made based on creation.
- #1- The Lord is the Creator of all.

1 Corinthians 6:20

- #2- God has purchased us.
- We are twice God's because He made us and then He bought us.
- Deuteronomy 5:12-15- Commandment made based of redemption.

Isaiah 58:13,14

- If... then statement.
- Could it be hard to call resting on the Sabbath day a delight at first?
- First keep the Sabbath & delight in it, then you will delight yourself in the Lord.
- First choose to step out in faith and your feelings will follow.
- Western culture: Time = Money
- Remind and encourage them of their past faithfulness in keeping the Sabbath.

Psalm 103:1-6

- Bless the Lord and don't forget His benefits- the way that He has prospered you.
- Lists the benefits:
 - Pardon for sin (forgiveness)
 - Heals our diseases (gives us good health)
 - Satisfies our years with good things
 - Etc.

Psalm 116:12-14

- Everything belongs to God, how can we show Him gratitude?
 - Accept His salvation
 - Pay vows to the Lord
- Do you want to express to God your thankfulness? He has given a way!

Leviticus 27:30

- The word "tithe" literally means 10% in Hebrew and Greek.
- **Transition:** Did people other than Jews also pay tithe?

Genesis 14:18-20

- Abraham paid tithe.
- Melchizedek blesses Abram. God delivered Abram's enemies into his hand.

- Melchizadek is a priest of God, so Abram responds in thankfulness to God and pays him a tithe of his increase.

Genesis 28:18-22

- Jacob paid tithe.
- Overwhelmed with gratitude for the mercy of God, Jacob covenants to return a tenth of all the Lord gives Him as tithe.

Malachi 3:8-12

- What's the difference between robbery and stealing? Robbery is in person.
- When we withhold our tithes and offerings, we are robbing God.
- Vs. 10 shows God's true character. He will bless those who reform!
- Bring the whole tithe- test Him and see if He will not bless you in return!
- Verse 11: Two kinds of blessings promised
 - Bless us actively by pouring out more
 - Decreases our expenses

Luke 6:38

- Illustration: Buy chips- big bag of air with a few chips at the bottom.
- God doesn't measure like that! He's not trying to shortchange you.
- God presses it in, shakes it down, and fills until it runs over.
- **Transition:** What was/is the tithe used for?

Numbers 18:21-26

- According to the passage, what was the tithe used for? Given to Levites.
- Who were the Levites? Levites didn't have a possession of their own. They were the priestly class employed in full-time ministry. The Lord directed that they would be provided for via tithe.
 - Tithe is used to support full-time ministry.

1 Corinthians 9:13,14

- NT Ministry: Paul says those who have committed their lives to gospel ministry should be supported by the gospel.

Mark 10:17-22, 28-31

- Jesus called him to the gospel ministry.
- There was one thing getting in the way. He had come so close! It was his stuff. If you're heart is always on your stuff, you'll never be able to give your heart to Me and have the riches of the kingdom of God.
- Nicodemus went away grieving. He loved the things God gave him more than he loved the giver.
- The disciples left all. Jesus' promised He would repay 100 times now & then.

appeal: (*Make sure before the appeal that the study was clear.) Is there anything that you are holding back from Jesus today? Is there something that you know is creating a wedge and not allowing you to follow Jesus as a disciple? Today God's Spirit is saying, give it up. Be sold out to Him. Lay it on the altar and say, Lord I want You to have me. All that I have is Yours.

*If they say no, encourage them to take God at His Word and test Him in tithe. Give god the opportunity to show up in a big way in their life.

*Help them to understand practically how to give, ie tithe envelope and/or online giving.