

What is Stewardship?

## ***“StewardWise”***

### **Talk about it**

1. What is the first word that comes to your mind when you hear the word “stewardship”? Be honest!  
(Write responses on the board.)
  - a. Categorize each response as positive, negative, or neutral.
2. Why does thinking about or discussing the topic of stewardship often make us feel uneasy or uncomfortable?

### **Think about it**

Let’s face it – stewardship is an edgy topic. The mere mention of the word makes many of us squirm in our pews. You won’t find many people talking about it around the dinner table either. Why is this vital aspect of our relationship with God becoming almost unmentionable?

Most likely it’s because many of us equate stewardship with giving or tithing. If we struggle with setting priorities in this area, we may avoid thinking or talking about stewardship all together. But the truth is that stewardship and giving are NOT the same thing. Giving is the natural result of living a lifestyle of stewardship. In other words, the very thing we’ve been avoiding is the ideal we must embrace if we are to follow Jesus in all areas of our lives and make a difference in this world for God!

Stewardship is a perspective and a process. It is the perspective of acknowledging God’s sovereignty as Creator, Ruler, and Owner of everything. Combining this perspective with God’s grace enables us to be effective managers and caretakers of the portion of His creation that He entrusts to us. This process happens in everyday life when we make careful, responsible, and intentional choices about investing and distributing our time, relationships, health, talents, abilities, and material wealth. When we use our greatest resource, God’s Word, to influence and direct these life choices, we become good stewards and investors in His Kingdom on earth.

### **Read about it**

***Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the Kingdom; You are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; You are the ruler of all things. In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.***

1 Chronicles 29:11-12

***It is required in stewards that one be found faithful.***

1 Corinthians 4:2

### **Do It!**

Write a personal definition of the word “stewardship” and display it in a visible place at home or the office and in your Bible.

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