

# Stewardship

## D-Group Curriculum



Time



Talent



Treasure

**Welcome to this three-week curriculum on stewardship. If you are unfamiliar with the concept of stewardship, a steward is essentially a person who manages the resources of another. As Christians, we acknowledge that God is the owner of everything (Psalm 24:1) and everything we own is a gift from God (1 Corinthians 4:7). That means we are His stewards and we will give an account for how we managed His resources (2 Corinthians 5:10). This three-week curriculum will focus on three areas of stewardship – time, talent and treasure, in order to help us become more aware of and intentional about our role as stewards. Our prayer is that these initial discussions on stewardship will ignite a desire to continue becoming better stewards of God's resources.**



# Week 1: Stewardship of Time

This first lesson focuses on the stewardship of time. Scripture reminds us that each person is allotted a certain amount of time on earth, though none of us knows exactly how much time we have remaining. We can use that remaining time in a way that honors God and brings glory to him, or we can waste it on things of little to no eternal significance. As we'll see in this lesson, the Bible instructs us to choose former.

## Icebreaker:

*Rate yourself on a scale of 1-5 (5 being the best) on how you currently manage your time. Explain your answer to the group.*

## Read the following verses:

**Psalms 90:10-12** - The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

**Ephesians 5:15-16** - Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

**Matthew 24:42-44** - Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

**James 4:14** - yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

## Answer the following questions:

*Based on the verses we just read, discuss some biblical reasons for giving attention to how we steward our time. In addition to the biblical reasons, why else should we give attention to how we steward our time?*

*How should the imminent return of Jesus Christ impact the way Christians steward our time? What mentality should we have? What sort of activities should we be doing with our time? (cf. Matthew 24:42-44)*

*Which practical tools and/or methods have you found to be useful for "making the best use of time?"*

*How does the good news of Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection address the fear, shame and/or guilt that we might feel for wasting the time in the past?*

*What one step can you take right now to become a better steward of your time?*



## Week 2: Stewardship of Talent

This week's lesson focuses on stewardship of talents. This involves using the talents, skills, gifts and abilities that God gives us for His glory and the benefit of others. The verses that have been provided demonstrate that God gives both natural talents, skills and abilities (Exodus 31:1-6) in addition to spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4). Therefore, stewarding our talents should not be limited to how we use them in the church, but rather how we use them to the glory of God and the benefit of others – whether in the church community or outside of it.

### Icebreaker:

*Identify one talent, gift, skill, or ability that you have and share how you currently use it. It may be one that you use inside and/or outside of the church community.*

### Read the following verses:

**Exodus 31:1-6** The Lord said to Moses, “See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft. And behold, I have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. And I have given to all able men ability, that they may make all that I have commanded you...”

**Romans 12:4-8** For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

**1 Peter 4:10-11** As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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# Week 2: Stewardship of Talent

## Answer the following questions:

*Based on the verses that we just read, what are some biblical reasons for stewarding the talent(s) God has given us?*

*How does what we read in Exodus 31:1-6 impact the way you think about stewarding natural gifts such as craftsmanship, musicianship, communication, etc.?*

*What obstacles and objections might people have to using their talents for the glory of God and benefit of others?*

*What are some solutions to the obstacles and objections that people have to stewarding their talents for the glory of God and benefit of others?*

*What one step can you take right now to become a better steward of your talent(s) in the church community? What about outside of the church community?*

**\*\*Do you need help identifying your spiritual gift(s)? Visit the D-Group Study Page on our website at <https://www.freedomchurchbaltimore.org/dgroupsstudy> to take a free spiritual gifts assessment.\*\***





## Week 3: Stewardship of Treasure

Stewarding treasure is managing our money and possessions to the glory of God. There are too many aspects of managing one's money and possessions to cover in just one lesson (such as spending, saving, and giving), so this week's lesson will focus more on a biblical approach to stewardship of treasure rather than the various aspects. However, tools such as Financial Peace University and Crown Financial can help you with the more practical aspects in the various areas of stewardship. Visit The D-Group Study page to find out more about those resources.

### Icebreaker:

*What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the term "stewardship of money and possessions?" Explain your answer to the group.*

### Read the following verses:

**Deuteronomy 10:14** - Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.

**Proverbs 3:9** - Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

**Proverbs 27:23-24** - Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds, for riches do not last forever; and does a crown endure to all generations?

**Luke 16:10-12** - "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?"

**1 Timothy 6:17-19** - As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

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# Week 3: Stewardship of Treasure

## Answer the following questions:

*Based on the verses we just read, what are some important reasons for biblical stewardship of our wealth and possessions?*

*Discuss some practical ways to “honor God with our wealth”, “do good”, and/or “be rich in good works” as it pertains to money and possessions. (cf. Proverbs 3:9 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19)*

*Based on Proverbs 27:23-24, what does the author mean by “know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds?” How does this relate to stewardship of treasure?*

*In 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Paul reminds us that God “richly provides us with everything to enjoy.” Do you think most Christians view their money and possessions as gifts from God to be enjoyed? Why or why not?*

*Based on your current financial situation, which one of this week’s verses resonates with you the most? What is one action step you can take right now in response to that verse?*

