**Answer Guide**

**“Faithful Stewards of God’s Grace”**

**Bible Study One: “Receiving and Using God’s Gifts”**

1. 1 Chronicles 29:11-19. David tells the people that God is the provider of all things. In verse 12: *“Both riches and honor come from You.”* Verse 14: *“For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You.”* Verse 16: All “*comes from Your hand and is all Your own.”*  Through faith, King David knew that all He had was a gift from God. David gave generosity which prompted others to give generously.
2. 1 Corinthians 4:7. We receive all things from God, and we should not boast. In our human nature, we want to take credit for what we have.
3. John 3:16. Life eternal

Romans 10:17. Faith

Ephesians 1:7. Redemption

2 Corinthians 9:8. God’s grace and sufficiency

1. Matthew 7:11. “Good things’
2. 1 Corinthians 2:12-16. God gives us the Holy Spirit so that we might understand the things freely given us by God.
3. Genesis 1:27. God created us in His image.

Psalm 90:12. A heart of wisdom

Hebrews 12:2. Jesus, the found and perfecter of our faith

1 John 4:19. God’s love

1. Ecclesiastes 5:18-19. God gives us the ability to own and have things, and He enables us to enjoy them.
2. Psalm 104:27. We are dependent upon God for food and all things that are needed for our lives. God provides everything.

Psalm 145:15. We look to God for food and blessings. God provides what we need at the proper time.

1. Philippians 4:19. God will supply our bodily needs and give us life eternal. God does not promise that He will provide for our wants or desires
2. 1 Peter 4:10. God gives us talents to use in service to others.
3. God gives us the ability to earn money through our work (Deuteronomy 8:17-18. God owns; we manage. Managing our money wisely will not only enable us to provide for our needs, but we have the potential to have funds available to help those in need, to support Christian ministries, and extend God’s kingdom. God uses us as His channels. By grace, we become willing channels for God to work through.
4. God is not focused on what we have. Whether we have little or lots, we are to have compassion toward and provide support for the poor and widows.

**Bible Study Two:** “**Serve One Another”**

1. When our serving is not visible to others, we show more than any other time that our hearts have been changed by God. God’s Word exhorts us to serve. When God’s love filles our hearts, His love will flow through us to others. God’s people serve Him by serving others.\
2. Matthew 28:20. God is always with us. He equips us to serve, and He gives us the desire to serve.
3. 2 Corinthians 9:13. God was glorified when the Corinthians gave generously to the poverty-stricken Christians Jews in Jerusalem. God opened the hearts of the Corinthians prompting them to give. The suffering Christians in Jerusalem gave God glory when He enabled the Corinthians to give generously.
4. Hebrews 11:6. To please God, our saving needs to be prompted by faith.
5. Philippians 2:5-8. Jesus gave up His heavenly realm to be born in a manger and live among us. He served all mankind by taking our sins to the cross to forgive us. In 2 Corinthians 8:9, the Apostle Paul wrote that Jesus Who was rich became poor for us so we can become rich.
6. John 13:12-17. After Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. He said, *“I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done for you.”* Jesus set the example that we are to follow. As Jesus served, we are to serve. Jesus also said, *“Blessed are you if you do this.”* When we serve, we will receive God’s gracious favor.
7. Luke 10:25-37. The Good Samaritan provided aid to the injured person. He took him to the inn where he paid in advance for his care. The religious leaders paid no attention to the injured person.
8. Galatians 2:20. Christ lives in us. We become one with Christ.

Philippians 2:13. God is working in us. He subdues our human nature. By grace, we are empowered to serve others.

Philippians 4:13. God strengthens us.

1. Matthew 26:31-46. In the final judgement, God will separate believers from unbelievers. The sheep are believers who demonstrate their faith by serving others. The sheep are separated from the goats that do not believer or serve.
2. Personal response.
3. 1 Peter 4:10. Each of us; we are given a gift; by God’s grace, we are called to serve others.
4. Mark 12:30-31. Loving God with our whole hearts, souls, and minds will prompt us to serve and honor Him by serving others. Loving our neighbors will prompt us to help and serve them.

**Bible Study Three:** “**Good Stewards of God’s Grace”**

1. A steward manages the possessions of another according to the will of the owner. Through faith, we know that God has created and owns all things, so we are God’s stewards. He honors us with the privilege to be the stewards of His creation.
2. Genesis 1:1. In the beginning, God created all things.

Deuteronomy 10:14. The heavens and the earth as well as everything in it belong to the Lord.

Psalm 24:1. The earth and everything in it belong to God

Psalms 50:10-12. The beasts and the cattle belong to God

Colossians 1:16-17. Through Christ all things were created, and they were created through and for Him.

1. A trustee, manager, caretaker, administrator
2. Romans 12:3-8. By grace, God gives us spiritual gifts

2 Corinthians 5:17-19. By grace, God makes us new creations.

1. 2 Corinthians 9:8. God’s grace abounds in us producing good works.

Titus 2:11-14. God’s grace makes us zealous for good works.

1. 1 Peter 4:10. By God’s grace, each of us receives one or more gifts from Him. He gives us gifts with the expectation that we will use our gift(s) in service for others. God’s grace gives us the gifts to use to serve, and His grace gives us the motivation to serve.
2. John 15:5. In the 15th chapter of John’s gospel, we read that Jesus is the Vine, and we are the branches. As the branches need to be connected to the vine, we need to be connected to Jesus. Paul was connected (abided) in Jesus. Abiding in Jesus, Paul was given faith and strength.

2 Corinthians 12:9. God is telling Paul that His grace is sufficient for him. He is to rely on God and not on himself. God is in control. We need to trust in His grace.

1. Personal response.
2. 2 Corinthians 8:1-7. Even though the Macedonians were impoverished, they pleaded for the opportunity to provide aid for the famine stricken and persecuted Christian Jews in Jerusalem. By grace, they not only gave, they gave beyond their means. They were willing to go without to come to the support of needed Christians. In these verses, Paul focuses on how God’s grace moved the Macedonians to give so generously.