A red cross with black text

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**Everyday Stewards**

**Bible Study 2: Stewardship as a Way of Life**

**Prayer:** Dear heavenly Father, we give You praise and thanks that You have called us to be Your stewards. We pray for Your wisdom and strength so that we can be faithful caretakers of the gifts, talents, and resources You have entrusted to us. We ask Your blessings on this study as we examine what it means to live as everyday stewards. Amen.

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, our minds are being transformed so we may learn what God’s will and purpose are for His stewards. As forgiven and redeemed people, we live our lives under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Being free from the law of sin, we now walk by the Holy Spirit Who causes us to live in Christ. Because God sent us His Son as our sin offering, we no longer *“walk according to the flesh”* (Romans 8:4). Our lifestyles reflect the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our minds are set on doing what the Spirit desires.

God’s Word and Sacraments are His means of grace through which He empowers us to become everyday stewards. As the Holy Spirit works through Word and Sacraments, He teaches us to use our lives, gifts, and resources in service to the Lord as Christian stewards. When God has all of us, our deeds of stewardship grow into a lifestyle of stewardship. By God’s grace, we are empowered to live our lives as faithful stewards.

1. What does God want you to give Him (Proverbs 23:26)?
2. What did the Magi do as they gave Baby Jesus their gifts (Matthew 2:9-11)?

In His ministry on earth, Jesus, our Chief Steward, became our model for stewardship. In Jesus, we are delivered from the Law to the Gospel of stewardship. At great cost, Jesus has freed us from the power of the Law with His innocent and precious blood so that we may serve Him in “everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness” (Luther’s Explanation to the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed). Our motivation and strength as stewards come from the power of the Cross. By His grace, we now have our new identity in Christ. By grace, we see our need for a Savior. Through renewed faith, we can understand our identity as disciples and stewards of Jesus. Through the Gospel, God transforms our identity into people who live each day as stewards.

1. What two different mind-sets are presented in Romans 8:5-8? What do they cause to happen?
2. How important is it for you to understand your identity in Christ for you to live each day as a steward?
3. Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-20. How is being a faithful steward an act of worship and devotion?
4. Read Genesis 3:1-7. God had given Adam and Eve their identity. What new identity were they seeking when they ate the fruit?
5. The old nature looks inward, thus leading us to be overly interested in the things of the world. What does Romans 13:14 tell you to do? How do you do that?

**Living a Disciplined Lifestyle**

This intimate relationship that Jesus has established with us and through which we are enabled to grow and to live each day as stewards is further nurtured by a disciplined lifestyle that incorporates spiritual disciplines. Examples of spiritual disciplines are praying and giving. Richard Foster, in his book *Celebration of Discipline*, writes “God has ordained the disciplines of the spiritual life as the means by which we place ourselves where He can bless us.” The spiritual disciplines that we develop will put us where Jesus can work within us to transform us and use us. By grace, God works through these disciplines to mold us and change us into stewards who can bless others as we have been blessed. Because spiritual disciplines remind us continually of God’s sovereignty and our need for Him, we should incorporate spiritual disciplines into our lives.

An important part of Jesus’ life was to pray to His Father in heaven (Mark 1:35). For us, prayer is an important spiritual discipline. Prayer allows us to commune with our heavenly Father. In order for us to live each day as stewards, we need to be transformed, and God uses prayer to change us into the people He wants us to be.

1. Read Romans 12:12, Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:17. What is Paul’s constant theme in these verses?
2. Read Acts 2:42-46. What did the people do that showed that God had changed their hearts?

The Spiritual Discipline of Giving

Jesus said, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive”* (Acts 20:35). Through the discipline of faithful giving, we give witness to our relationship with the Lord. In our giving, we acknowledge Who God is and what He has done for us. As we practice the spiritual discipline of giving, we learn to make giving a priority, and we learn to be faithful in our giving, providing consistency in our stewardship lifestyle. By making out the first check to the Lord’s work, we affirm that Jesus is our treasure. Our gifts represent our love and gratitude for the Lord.

1. How can giving break the grip that money can have on you?

1. How can the spiritual discipline of giving be a blessing?
2. Read Romans 12:1-2. What offering does God ask of us considering His mercies?
3. Which warning is found in 1 Timothy 6:9-10?

**Prayer:** Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness to us. Forgive us when we fail to live lives worthy of Your love and sacrifice. Give us the desire and will to live stewardship lifestyles that give You honor and praise. In Jesus’ precious name we pray. Amen.