

**Stewardship Emphasis:**

**Everyday Stewards**

**Week One:**

**“Stewards Walking by Grace”**

**Week One: “We are Ambassadors for Christ”**



**Defining Grace:**

*The* *Lutheran Study Bible* defines grace: “God’s underserving mercy toward undeserving people” (page 1902; see grace). As God’s people, we live every day by the grace of God. All we are and have is evidence of God’s grace at work in our lives. Grace is God’s gift and an undeserved favor. God chose us to be His by His grace despite our sinful thoughts, words, and deeds. As God’s people, we receive forgiveness according to the riches of God’s grace. The Apostle Paul tells us, *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus…”* (Romans 3:23-24). God sent His Son to atone for our sins and secure our salvation.

**Finding Strength in God’s Grace**

God’s grace not only brings us forgiveness and salvation, but it also trains *“us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and Godly lives in the present age”* (Titus 2:12). Paul is telling us that God’s grace empowers us to break away from our old, fallen nature, renouncing sin and embracing God. Empowered by grace, we become everyday stewards. Strengthened by God’s grace, we use our time, talents, and resources faithfully for God’s purpose and glory.

**Bonhoeffer’s Description of “Cheap Grace”**

The sainted Lutheran Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote about “cheap grace”.

“Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the Cross, grace without Christ, living and incarnate.”

Through faith, we understand the wonderful gift of grace that God has given to us through His Son, Jesus. While this grace is free, it is not cheap, because it cost Jesus His life. Because of His ultimate sacrifice, we have received grace that empowers us to live as disciples today and saving grace that assures us a life forever with Jesus. May the Holy Spirit empower each of us to be everyday stewards.

**Blessed to Be a Blessing**

By God’s grace, He has created us and calls each of us by name. He loves us and wants His best for us. God wants us to share His love and the blessings that He entrusts to us with others. He gives us our time, talents, and money so we can be His channels through which He works. God blesses us so we can be blessings to families, friends, and neighbors. The Apostle Paul wrote, *“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?”* (1 Corinthians 4:7). We are the recipients of God’s gifts. God is the owner; we are the stewards. We become God’s hands, feet, and mouth to the world. We are blessed to be a blessing.

**Daily Stewardship Prayers:**

**Sunday:** Almighty God, I belong to You, and all that I have comes from You. Help me to receive Your blessings with thanksgiving and to share what You have entrusted to me with others and Your Church. I ask this in the name of Jesus Your Son, my Lord. Amen.

**Monday:** Dear Creator of all, You alone are the source of every gift. Help me to be mindful that I am to manage your gifts according to Your purpose and that I am accountable to You. I pray that You will fill my heart with Christ’s love and with His love, that I may glorify Your holy name and serve others in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Tuesday**: Dear Heavenly Father, I commit myself to be a good steward of Your gifts to me, to share my time, my talents, and my resources as an outward sign of the treasure I hold in Jesus. Forgive me Lord when I fail. Amen.

**Wednesday:** Oh Lord, I know that it is from Your hand that I have received all I have, and am, and will be. I thank You for calling me to be Your steward of the abundance that You have given to me. Help me to be a wise manager and teach me to share my gifts generously. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Thursday:** Dear heavenly Father. Through faith, I know that every beast of the forest is Yours and the cattle on a thousand hills. Even though You have created and own all things, I know that You know my name and that You want the best for me. Help me to show my love through my faithful stewardship. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Friday:** Dear Lord, open my mind and heart to a greater awareness and deeper appreciation of Your countless blessings. Transform me through the power of Your Holy Spirit to nurture a stewardship way of life. Help me in my effort to be an everyday steward. Amen.

**Saturday:** Dear good and gracious heavenly Father, strengthen my faith and grant me the spirit of Christian stewardship. Help me to love as You love, to serve as You serve, and to give as You give. Open my eyes and heart to see opportunities to share my blessings with those in need. Use my hands, feet, and mouth in Your service. In Jesus’ name. Amen

**Blessings on your Journey to be an Everyday Steward!**