

At-home Bible Study:

What about our “stuff?”

“Stuff,” in and of itself, is not bad. It is not necessarily sinful to have “stuff.” The things of this world are intended to be a blessing for us from our God...yet the devil wants to twist these blessings into curses for us instead. What does God say about our relationship with “stuff?” How does God bless us through the things of this world?

Today: What is stewardship?

Read  **Matthew 25:14-18.** (Note — A “talent” is a unit of money.)

- What are some possible reasons that the third servant didn’t invest the talent that he had been given?
- This is a parable. We sometimes define parables as “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.” If the master is Jesus, the servants are obviously Jesus’ followers — the disciples and us. What do you think the talents represent?

Read  **Matthew 25:19-23.**

- In verse 21 the master uses an adjective twice to refer to the servant. He uses that word twice again in verse 23. This word is key to understanding what stewardship is. What is that word?

Stewardship is being _____ with the blessings God gives you.

- Is there any difference in the way the master rewarded the first servant and the way he rewarded the second servant? What does this tell you about stewardship?

Read  **Matthew 25:24-30.**

- What was the mistake of the third servant?
 - a) He did not use his talent.
 - b) He did not understand his what his master wanted.
 - c) He did not love his master.

Why do you think Jesus used the servant with only one talent as the example of the unfaithful servant? Why not use the one with five talents? What was he trying to teach us?

Read  **2 Corinthians 5:14-15.**

- In the world, how do authority figures (police officers, those in the military, etc.) get people to obey them?
- According to verse 14, what is it about Christ that motivates us to serve and obey him?
- In verse 14 take special note of the phrase “Christ’s love compels us” and compare with  **1 John 4:19.** That passage tell us, “We love because he first loved us.” How are 1 John 4:19 and 2 Corinthians 5:14 related?
- In verse 15 think about the phrase “the life I live” and answer this question: does stewardship involve my entire life, not just my money? What are some other areas of your life that God wants you to manage in a way that gives him glory?
- Re-read verse 15 and then fill in the blank:

Living a life of Christian stewardship is a demonstration of my _____.

Later on in 2 Corinthians Paul writes, “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

True or False — If something is done or given out of compulsion (such as fear, guilt, etc.) it is not proper Christian stewardship.

True or False — God is the one who is responsible for producing Christian stewardship in his children.