

# 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: God makes us stewards of time, talents, and treasures...  
so now what?**

Read  **1 Corinthians 16:1-2.**

In these verses Paul establishes some basic principles about giving an offering.

*“On the first day...”* — What does this say about the priority our offering is to take against other expenses (bills, recreation, etc.)?

*“...of each week...”* — What does this say about the regularity of giving an offering?

*“...each one of you...”* — What does this say about whom is to give an offering?

*“...set aside...”* & *“...saving it up...”* — What does this say about using our offering for something other expense?

*“...in keeping with his income...”* — What does this say about the size of our offering?

The New Testament (Colossians 2:16-17, for example) makes it clear that the Old Testament ceremonial laws (the laws telling the Jewish people how to worship) no longer apply to us. Therefore, would the principle of giving “in keeping with his income” mean we *must* give a tithe (10%)?

Read  **1 Peter 4:10-11.**

What do the words “has received” tell us about our talents?

What do the words “each one” tell us about the gifts that God gives?

What does the word “faithfully” tell us about whether or not we will use those talents?

According to verse 10, for what reason did God give us gifts?

Peter writes about “God’s grace in its various forms.” Grace is undeserved, unmotivated love. The way God loves us motivates us to show the same love for others. But that love can take “various forms.” List at least five ways that members of our church family (other than the pastor) can show love for each other using their various talents?

According to verse 11 what is accomplished when we serve each other faithfully with the gifts that God has given us?

One of the most common reasons people don’t offer service at church is that they aren’t sure how. Or perhaps their church doesn’t offer any area of service that fits the person’s interests or talents. Think of at least three of your favorite things to do. Then think of at least three things that you may not like to do, but you’re still very good at. Ask yourself, “Is there any way I can use these talents or interests to serve others at church?”

Read  **1 John 4:7-11.** An honest look at our attitude and actions might show that we have not always practiced good stewardship as God commands. What does this verse have to say to us, who have not always given of our time, talents, and treasures as God wants us to give?