

# PREPARING TO SERVE

## 1. How would you define stewardship?

When the topic of stewardship arises in the church, people automatically think of money. Even though how we use our money is certainly a part of stewardship, it is not the only component, or maybe even the main element. In this lesson, we want to introduce the topic of stewardship and encourage every student to evaluate the following areas of life: time, talents, and finances.



Dave Redick begins one of his sermons with this story: “J.B. Phillips tells a parable about some field mice that settled in a certain farmer's cornfield. It was a great place to live. Everything they needed was there. Food was abundant. Water was plentiful (it came right down the rows). They enjoyed living. They seemed not to have a care in the world. Then one day the farmer who owned the field came to reap the harvest. Of course this spelled disaster for the mice. Their world that had seemed so snug and secure came crashing down around them - all because it never occurred to them that the field wasn't theirs.” All that we have belongs to the Lord.

The concept of stewardship is grounded in the fact that God is Creator. Since God is Creator, he is the **owner** of everything. After God created Adam and Eve he made them stewards of his creation and told them to have dominion over what had been created.

### Principle #1 -- God is the Creator and Owner of Everything

**Psalm 24:1** says, “*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.*”

## 2. According to Psalm 24:1, what belongs to the Lord and what meaning should this have in our lives?

Not only did God create everything, but he sustains us. **Colossians 1:15-17** puts it this way: “*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*”

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Redick, Dave. *Managing Your Spiritual Investments: Matthew 25:14-30*. <http://preacherstudy.com/premium/invest.html>.

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3. What does it mean to say that Christ holds all things together?

**Principle #2 -- Every Good Thing We Have Comes from God**

4. Read James 1:17 and describe how we receive good things.

In the beginning God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden. God was providing for them. There is nothing good that we have that has come to us without God. He has given us our very lives. Beyond that, he gives us strength, health, and the resources of this earth. Since we cannot create, we are capable of nothing without God.

**Principle #3 -- God Has Given Us the Responsibility to Faithfully Use His Blessings (We are Stewards)**

5. Read Genesis 1:28. What is the meaning of dominion?

6. What responsibility does man have in Genesis 2:15?

**Principle #4 -- Faithful Stewards Make a Good Return on God's Investment**

7. Read Matthew 25:14-30. Who are the characters in this parable?



8. What do the talents represent?

9. What were the servants expected to do with the talents?

Our responsibility as stewards includes not only the resources of this earth, but also our own time, talents, and money.

10. Of what was Paul made a steward in Ephesians 3:1-12?



11. What do you find hardest to manage for God: time, talents, money? Why?

12. Why do some Christians respond so negatively when they are challenged to be good stewards of their time, talents, and money?

13. What does Galatians 6:7-9 have to do with our stewardship?

14. How can we know when we have been generous?

15. Write your definition for stewardship below.

**In preparation for the next lesson please answer as completely as possible the following questions:**

1. What does it mean to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit?

2. What is the meaning of Galatians 5:16-17?

2. Memorise Galatians 5:22-23.