Stewardship

1. **What is stewardship**? *(John 17:4 “I have completed the work you gave me to do.”)*
   1. **Recognizing** that God is Creator and Owner of all. Genesis 1:1; Psalm 24:1 “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; . . .”
   2. **Knowing** all I have comes from God.
   3. Responsibly **managing** God-given resources*-- according to His direction*.
   4. Carefully **fulfilling** God’s call and God’s will for my life.

2. **What has God given me that I need to manage**?

* + 1. My **time**
    2. My **relationships** with family, friends, coworkers, and authorities
    3. My **money** and **possessions**
    4. My **talents**, abilities, and spiritual **gifts**.
    5. My **career** - *ministry*
    6. My **authority**

3. **How can I be a good steward in my relationships**?

1. Develop **positive** relationships with other people. **The Apostle Paul is our example**. *He wrote letters to the churches he established. He greeted people by name in his letters and sent greetings from his coworkers. He trained leaders in each church. He mentored young pastors like Timothy and Titus.*

b. Keep relationships clear by **resolving** conflict.

1) **Forgive** others when they hurt me. Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

2) **Ask forgiveness** when I hurt others. Matthew 5:23-24 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.” This is part of integrity.

1. Follow God’s directions for relationships with my **authorities**, *respect, obedience, prayer, appreciation – Respect for position even when your authority is very imperfect*

Ephesians 6:5 “Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ” 1 Timothy 2:1,2 “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”

Pray for authorities; learn to appeal to authorities CBC class absence/cut rule

**d**. Follow God’s directions for relationships with those **under my authority**. *Patience, kindness, love (difficult in an institutional setting), service, Before correcting students make sure you have all the information.*

2 Timothy 2:24-25 “And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct,”

It may be hard to be kind to students who are disrespectful and hateful.

Eph 4:2 “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

* 1. Realize ministry is built on relationships, **not money**. *The need for friends*  *If you do not maintain good relationships, the only ministry you can do will be by yourself.*

4. **How can I be a good steward with my resources**? (Personal life and ministry)

* 1. Use wisely the **material** resources of the ministry*--equipment, building, vehicles--which all belong to God.* *This is difficult to do with multiple staff, buildings, and vehicles.*

Luke 16:10-12 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?”

People will keep things clean if they are clean to begin with. Do periodic inspections of facilities.

It is easier to build new facilities than it is to keep them up.

* 1. Use wisely the **financial** resources of the ministry*. keep accurate records, don’t use ministry money for personal needs.* Romans 12:17 ”Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.” *Some men of God have great vision and effective ministry but fail at stewardship.*
  2. Use wisely my **personal** resources. G*ive to God. Tithe; give to others*; *allow God to direct me, it’s His money* *Budget – Use a credit card like a check.* Romans 12:13 “Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”
  3. Use wisely my **time**. Ephesians 5:16 “These are evil times, so make every minute count.” CEV
  4. *Illustration: Joseph is an example of stewardship. He was made the manager of Potipher’s house, then the prison, and then the entire country of Egypt.*

1. **What can we teach students about stewardship**? Teach them to:
   1. Give to God by **tithing**.
   2. Tithe even if they have very **little**.
   3. Realize **everything** they have comes from God .
   4. Transfer ownership of their **possessions** to God. *What we give to God, He will take care of. Illustration: my first car.*
   5. Ask God for **direction** in using their money, time, and abilities. *Be an example- debt free, budget*
   6. *Practice stewardship and how to respond to authority with classes.*

**Stewardship: Responsibly managing God**-**given resources Example: Paul**

1. **How can you better manage your resources and relationships?** What do you need to do differently with your money, your possessions, your co-workers, or your friends?

Write down one idea.