



The Ownership Myth – Week 1

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

Welcome to the first message in our three-part series entitled, *In God We Trust*. Today we will focus on God's perspective on stewardship.

Discussion Questions

What is a steward?

A steward is not an owner but a manager over something owned by another. Stewardship and trust go hand-in-hand.

1 Corinthians 4:2 says, "Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful."

- An "owner" desires a "steward" to be faithful and responsible. Can you share an experience, as either an owner or a steward, when faithfulness and responsibility was not honored? Examples could be tenants, landlords, borrowers, lenders, service providers, caregivers. How was trust affected?

Four Principles of a Stewardship Perspective

1. God owns everything.

Matthew 25:14 tells of an owner who entrusted his goods to his servants: **"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them."**

The goods were talents which was a coin worth about \$1000. The owner entrusted his stewards just as God entrusts us, as His stewards, to be responsible with what He owns.

Scripture tells us that God owns everything: **"The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein."** (Psalm 24:1)

- Why should we ask God about spending, saving, investing, and giving? What are practical ways to include God in our financial decisions?

2. God wants us to invest wisely and generously.

"... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal." (Matthew 6:20)

We lay up treasure in Heaven by *reaching people and building lives* through our tithes and offerings. Our giving helps people change their eternal destiny from spending a Christ-less eternity to one in the presence of God.

- How does knowing our giving will impact God's kingdom give us peace?

3. God holds us accountable as stewards.

"So then each of us shall give account of himself to God." (Romans 14:12)

One day, God is going to personally ask us how we've stewarded the resources He has entrusted us with.

- What are you inspired to do with the resources and opportunities God has given you? How does the fact that God takes inventory of your financial decisions influence your choices?

4. God requires action.

God wants us to put His resources to work. He doesn't want us to hide them away in fear but walk in confidence with the resources He gives us to steward.

- Share a time when fear influenced your stewardship.
- Share a time when faith influenced your stewardship.
- What did you learn from both experiences?

Life Challenge

God wants us to be people of faith and action. What action steps can we take this week to be good stewards of what we spend, save, invest, and give?

Prayer

Father, we are thankful for the blessings You've given us to steward according to Your will. Help us make financial decisions that will invest in Your kingdom. We desire to reach people and build lives for Your glory. Amen. Pray for the specific needs of the group.