

Icebreaker: What are some things you are responsible for managing in your home or at your job?

Key Verse: From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. Luke 12:48b

What is the reward for good work? In your job, you may get more money in the form of a bonus with excellent work. However, more common than a bonus is more responsibility. The reward for good work is often more work. Similarly, those who do poorly at their jobs will likely lose what responsibilities they have. These principles hold true in the kingdom of heaven as well.

Jesus told a story about a faithful manager, and His point was this: We must be ready. To those who are ready and do well, they will be given more. For those who do poorly, what little they have will also be taken. Jesus has given us much, and He does not expect us to sit on it.

We have been given families, jobs, money, time, talents, and many other gifts. These things are not neutral; all are to be stewarded to the glory of God. The Lord will hold us responsible for how well we manage the things He has given us. If we manage these things well, we will be given more, either now or in eternity. We should not think that Jesus is advocating for a faith based in works, but rather a faith that is demonstrated by works.

If we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, that love will be evident in our stewardship of God's gifts to us because our chief goal will be to please God. When we look to God for our approval, we will always find it in Christ.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight's message, what stood out to you?

Dwight said we have been given the responsibility to manage . . .

- God's Truth
- Spiritual Gifts
- Bodies
- Household (relationships, property, time, money)

How does God instruct you to use the things He has entrusted you with?

How does managing one thing well lead to more opportunities to manage God's resources?

What is one area of managing God's resources you would like to grow in over the next month? What steps should you take?

LOOK IT OVER >>>

What all has God given you to manage?

How well are you doing in your stewardship of God's resources? What does this look like in your home? Your work? In your hobbies?

We often think of stewardship and management as primarily dealing with finances, but how is your time just as valuable as your money? How are you managing your time?

How could we as a group hold each other accountable to be good managers of God's resources?

Have you ever tithed before? If you have, how have you benefited from tithing? If you haven't, will you commit to tithing over the next 90 days?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

1. Pray that God would find us faithful over all He has given us to manage. Ask for wisdom over the things you are able to steward, and ask God to give you growth in areas where you are weak.
2. Share with the group one area in which you would like to grow. Are there any common areas among the group? Assuming there is someone the same gender as you who wants to grow in the same area, could you get together in smaller groups centered on an area in which you would mutually like to grow? Commit to connect a couple of times over the next week to check in with each other.

EVALUATION/ACTION I manage the resources God has given me to the glory of God.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

FURTHER STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out these verses:

- 1 Corinthians 4:1-2
- 1 Peter 4:10
- 1 Timothy 3:4-5
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- Luke 12:42-48

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to the next small group meeting)