

Your Stewardship Toolkit for September 2021!

August's theme: Stewardship is about good priorities

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Check out my website: thestewardshipguy.com



Good, thoughtful, consistent communication, education and action will help develop a healthy culture of stewardship and generosity in your congregation. This kit is designed to help get you there!

You can use the resources of this kit by themselves to educate and encourage stewardship, but they would be more effective as a monthly emphasis that lifted up a different aspect of stewardship. You could plan bible studies, temple talks, a preaching series and other activities.

Here's what you'll find below:

-Stewardship Snippets: Put a "Stewardship Snippet" every week in your Sunday bulletin! It's a quote from the week's Revised Common Lectionary lessons, followed by a brief reflection. Just cut and paste!

-Newsletter Article: Publish something in your newsletter every month on stewardship and faith, or post it on your website. Keep your people thinking about stewardship. Just cut and paste!

-General Resource Websites: – These are places you can go for great ideas!

Stewardship Snippets

Copy and paste into your bulletin!

Source: Rob Blezard

Stewardship Snippet

Sept. 5, 2018 (15th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

James 2:15 – If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?

For many of us who have more than we need, it's very hard to follow Jesus' command to love our neighbor as ourselves. The questions steward/disciples have to ask prayerfully are, "How generous am I, really? Is God calling me to be more generous?"

Sept. 12, 2021 (16th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

Mark 8:35 – Jesus taught, “For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?”

Jesus debunks the prevalent lie that the more we accumulate, the happier and more secure we will be. Steward/disciples learn that when we give ourselves fully to God, we save our lives and find true joy.

Sept. 19, 2021 (17th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

James 4:1, 2 – Those conflicts and disputes among you ... do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts.

James puts his finger on the pulse of human misery. We drive ourselves crazy by craving the things we don't have and envying those who have more than we do! Spiritual maturity and practicing steward/discipleship help bring us sanity.

Sept. 27, 2018 (18th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

Psalm 19:14 – Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

When we live fully to God, we want not just our outside appearance to meet with God's approval, but even our thoughts and words. This is the prayer of a true steward/disciple.

Newsletter article

Select the one below, or from the [Toolkit Newsletter Article Archive](#)

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Stewardship is about good priorities

Jesus taught, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” -**Luke 12:32**

The Bible makes it clear that God has given us all that we have and all that we are. This includes not just our money and possessions, but also our relationships, our character strengths, our time, our intelligence, the special talents and skills we may possess, and so much more.

Biblical stewardship invites us to use all these gifts in God-pleasing ways -- not for God’s benefit, but for ours. We are the ones who benefit when we invest ourselves, our time and our possessions in ways that are in sync with God’s purposes.

The more we align our lives with God’s purposes, the happier and more fulfilled we become. And why not? We are learning to live more fully as disciples of Jesus, approaching more fully the abundant life he promised us. We grow in awareness and set new priorities that bring us closer to God.

If that sounds appealing to you, why not begin? Pick an area of your life that you'd like to align with God's purposes. Maybe your relationships? Your money? How about your time?

Then, honestly and prayerfully consider: How are you using that gift? Talk it over with your pastor or prayer partner. Ask God to give you insight and to reveal your blind spots. Pray for guidance on how you can better use your gifts.

It takes time, but it's so worth it. When our priorities are in sync with God's purposes, we are not only stewarding our lives well, but also opening the door to greater personal fulfillment and joy.

--*Rob Blezard*

Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.

General Stewardship Resource Websites

[Stewardship of Life Institute](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org)— Headquartered at United Lutheran Seminary, this site has a trove of resources in areas of congregational and personal stewardship. (www.stewardshipoflife.org)

[ELCA Stewardship Resources](http://www.elca.org/stewardship)— Our denomination's deep well of materials. (www.elca.org/stewardship)

[Center for Stewardship Leaders](http://faithlead.luthersem.edu/stewardship/) — Luther Seminary's excellent website. (faithlead.luthersem.edu/stewardship/)

[The ELCA Foundation](http://www.elca.org/give/elca-foundation) a ministry of our denomination. (www.elca.org/give/elca-foundation)

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