

BETHLEHEM  
CHURCH



ROAD MAP

FOR

Stewardship

## What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is simply using wisely what God has given us to further spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The principle of stewardship is that we do not own our resources, a steward simply manages something on behalf of the owner. The end state of a steward is that the owner receives what is rightfully theirs in the end. God has provided us with so many resources and it is our responsibility to ensure each resource is used to the fullest extent possible to honor God. When we talk about stewardship, we typically talk about managing our time, our talents, and our treasures. This roadmap will cover some Biblical principles on effective stewardship and how we can maximize our resources for God's glory.

[Click here](#) for a quick YouTube video on giving of time, talent, and treasures.

## Principles of Stewardship?

### 1. **God owns it all, it is our job to take care of it.**

God is the creator of all things, the owner of all things, the keeper of all things, and the master of all things. (*Psalms 89:11*) God entrusts each one of us with different resources, so it is our job to manage them in a way that would please God. (*Matthew 25:14-30*). Proper stewardship expresses our obedience to do what God has asked us to do. While God has graciously entrusted us with the care, development, and enjoyment of everything he owns, as his stewards, we are responsible to manage His holdings well and according to His desires and purposes.

### 2. **Proper stewardship requires faithfulness and increases our faith in God.**

We must trust God has our best interest in mind when it comes to giving of ourselves and resources so our obedience in giving is a sign of faithfulness to God. (*1 Corinthians 4:2*) When we give of our time, talent, and treasures, the Bible tells us that God takes that and gives it back in according to our efforts. Trusting that God gives us what we need when we provide for others in need is a complete exercise in faith that God will provide and He cares for us! (*2 Corinthians 9:6-11*). Good stewardship is more about spiritual rather than the material.

### 3. **Stewarding resources God's way produces eternal rewards.**

This world is temporary and God's plan is eternal. So often we lose sight of the fact that God has called us to be stewards over temporary for an eternal purpose which is winning the lost to Christ. We need to invest our time, talents, and treasures where they will matter most, which is on eternity (*Matthew 6:19-21*). We may not always see the rewards of faithful stewardship in this life but we will in eternity. (*Colossians 3:23-24*).

## Stewardship in Our Time

Being a good steward of our time is not just about the activities in our schedule. It's also about having cohesive, real relationships with our Lord and with other people. With the time God gives us we can honor God, live purposefully, and love others well. We should redeem the time now. (*Ephesians 5:15-17*) (*James 4:14*). Here are some points of emphasis with being good stewards of the time God has given us:

### 1. Put God First.

Start your day with God through Bible reading and prayer. So many things in life will compete for our attention, communicate those things to God and ask Him for help to prioritize parts of your life so He is first. Pray for wisdom to discern those things that are not fruitful in our lives. In some cases, we may need to remove some items that do not glorify him at all. This also includes prioritizing time with God such as church attendance, supporting ministries, or visiting people in need. Making good use of your time is very often a mindset that the things of God are more important. (*Matthew 6:33*).

### 2. Realize you are on a mission.

As a child of God, you have a mission, the Great Commission. (*Matthew 28:19-20*). With this as our driving force, we should ensure we maximize our time and opportunities to carry out this mission. If this is the number one thing, what activities are we involved in that support this? Are we volunteering for outreach ministries or spending time with folks in our connect group? How are we reaching people?

### 3. Invest time into relationships.

Jesus came to earth to seek and to save those that were lost, so he spent time with them to meet them where they were. He also spent time developing his disciples. He spent time with friends and family members. Jesus was all about relationships. The one common thread in all his relationships was love. Jesus did not just say he loved people, he showed them by spending time with them. We should also spend time showing people the love of Christ through us. (*1 John 3: 18*). Invest in your family, invest in your friends, invest in your church family, invest in your neighbors! Invest!

## Stewardship in Our Talents

God has given everyone a unique skillset that makes you who you are. It is up to us to use those skills for God's glory. From carpentry to singing to leading children's ministries, to teaching, to greeting visitors; God has given us all something. Here are some points of emphasis with being good stewards of the talents God has given us:

### 1. Don't limit yourself.

Sometimes it is difficult for us to see what God sees. "I'm not a teacher or a preacher...and I can't sing." This is not the limit of talents God allows us to use to further His kingdom! Many

of us have trades that can be used in the church such as carpenters, electricians, plumbers, painters, or any other trade that helps us keep our facilities open and available for ministry. Some trades are more suited towards people such as sales, teaching, public servant, or even lawyers. It takes all kinds of skillsets to meet the needs of a local church to fully get the Gospel out. If your trade does not directly translate, don't assume God doesn't have a place for you because availability is the best ability for God!

## 2. **Try it on to see if it fits.**

Don't wait for something to fall into your lap, try some different areas. Never worked sound before, PLEASE VOLUNTEER! Sorry, emotional reaction. There are so many positions that cover so many areas:

- Future Team – Children's ministries, teen ministries
- Worship Team – Singing, playing instruments, service coordinator, greeters, ushers, security team, parking lot attendant, sound, video, coffee host (VITAL), altar workers, communion prep
- Beauty Team – facilities maintenance, facilities cleaning, property improvements (Pastor's make up team)
- Connect Team – teachers, facilitators, administrators, coffee host, musicians
- Care Team – Outreach, special events, kitchen, event set up/clean up, member outreach

## 3. **It takes a village.**

Every role plays a part in reaching the lost for Christ. From the cleaning crew to the Worship leader to the Pastor. There are no small parts in God's Kingdom. (*1 Corinthians 12:12-31*). If we don't participate then are we really good stewards of what God has given us?

[Click here](#) for a link to the Bethlehem Church site with the available positions.

## **Stewardship in Our Treasures**

God gives us each a financial realm to steward as well. We see examples of giving throughout the Bible from giving alms to the poor to Abraham giving a tenth of everything he had to new believers selling all they had in Acts 2. In each case the giver is simply being a good steward of what God had given them. The love of money can separate us from God (*1 Timothy 6:10*) but the proper stewardship of God's money can draw us closer to Him in so many ways. Here are some points of emphasis with being good stewards of the treasure God has given us:

### 1. **Put the money where you want your heart to be.**

God gives us the increase so we need to ensure we put it where it can be used for his glory and where we want our heart to be. (*Matthew 6:10*) General giving is used for many purposes: church operations, special outreach events, special speakers, etc. Specific giving typically includes missions and special projects.

## 2. How much is enough?

The Bible mentions money in nearly 2000 verses and yet we find that limits or minimums are never really defined for giving. Tithing (meaning 1/10) is an old testament principle that speaks about giving 10 percent of your increase to the church for church administration and to sustain the church operations. Jesus himself never put such limits or definition on giving but rather focused more on the relationship aspect of giving found in [2 Corinthians 9:7](#) stating that “Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver.” All the examples of Jesus talking about giving show to give in abundance and you will then in turn receive in abundance. We believe that we will experience God’s fullness the more we let go of money and give it back to God. We also believe in the principle of sowing and reaping mentioned in [2 Corinthians 9:6](#) with says “Remember this: the person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.” God is in the business of blessing those who give back into areas that bless others.

## 3. Invest in the eternal not just the temporary.

Matthew 6:19-21 “Don’t store up for yourselves treasures[a] on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don’t break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Look to invest in things that will matter for all eternity, those things designed to bring people closer to Christ and ultimately those things that spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

[Click here](#) for a link to the Bethlehem Church page for giving.

## Am I a Good Steward?

There isn’t one thing alone that makes us good stewards. We must take all the Biblical principles and put them into practice. The following are some thoughts to keep in mind as you assess if you are being a good steward of what God has given you:

- Good stewards are committed to selfless service, are team players, and they're quick to give others credit
- Good stewards practice inclusiveness and encourage discipleship
- Good stewards embrace innovation and change
- Good stewards do not see stewardship as sacrifice but rather the joyful, willing obedience to a God that deserves it!

## Helpful Materials on Stewardship

### Video resources

[Generosity](#) by the Bible Project

In the story of the Bible, God is depicted as a generous host who provides for the needs of his guests. However, humans live from a mindset of scarcity and hoard God's many gifts. In this video, we explore God's plan for overcoming our selfishness by giving the ultimate gift of himself in the person of Jesus.

[Are Christians still required to tithe](#) by Allen Parr

SUMMARY: So, I want to challenge you today not to limit yourself to a 10% blessing, secondly to focus more on your attitude when you give and to give sacrificially even when it hurts trusting that God can bring that and more back to you.

[A steward for God Alone](#) by Donnie Smith

Are you worried about what other people think about you? Donnie Smith, the President and CEO of Tyson Foods, isn't. His life verse challenges him every day to view his work and his life as a stewardship—a responsibility for which he answers to God alone. He wants to do his best for God.

## **Books/Pamphlets/Articles**

[Why is giving so emphasized in the Christian faith?](#) By Got Questions

Our generosity in giving is a demonstration of God's character and a response to what He has done for us.