

The Rule of Stewardship Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part altogether, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Were you given any chores or key responsibilities when you were growing up? Explain.
2. What is one responsibility in your life that you wouldn't mind handing over to someone else if you could?

Read the following passages: Acts 26:12-18; Colossians 1:24-29.

Although the apostle Paul's life was extremely difficult, he lived with joy and energy (see Colossians 1:24, 29). This joy and energy were connected to Paul's realization that he had been given a stewardship by God. A stewardship is a mission, responsibility, or role entrusted to us by someone else. If we want to live with a sense of meaning, we need to recognize that we have been given a stewardship by God.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Generally speaking, how meaningful does your life feel to you right now? Explain.
2. Read Philippians 1:3-8. Describe Paul's relationship with the believers in Philippi.
3. Are there any relationships in your life beyond those in your natural family that you feel particularly called to steward? What might it look like to deliberately steward some relationships in your life?
4. Read Philippians 1:4-6. What do you think Paul had in mind when he spoke of the Philippians' "partnership in the gospel"? What was Paul's gospel?
5. Are you stewarding the gospel in your life right now? Explain how each of the following can be ways that we steward the gospel: 1) Following Jesus's example (see Philippians 2:3-5); 2) Stewarding our pain (see Philippians 1:12-14); 3) Stewarding our place (again see Philippians 1:12-14).
6. What is the difference between stewarding your soul and being obsessed with yourself? Why is stewarding our souls important?
7. Read Philippians 4:4-9. What are two ways Paul exhorts the Philippians to steward their inner lives?
8. Read Philippians 4:10-19. Paul wrote this letter to the Philippians in part because he had recently received a financial gift from them. How does stewarding our finances connect with 1) Stewarding our relationships; 2) stewarding the gospel;

and 3) stewarding our own souls? Are there any ways you would like to change how you are handling your finances? Explain.

Pray