



KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP

SESSION 2: THE PURPOSE

“But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.” Deuteronomy 8:18

CONNECT Open your group time by creating an environment in which you begin to develop a community of connection. Get to know one another through sharing prayer requests and experiences that provide members with an opportunity to engage.

CONNECTING IN PRAYER: Begin your time together with prayer and praise.

CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER: We often think of idols as carvings of wood or some traditional statue; however, an idol is any person, place, thought or thing that usurps God’s rule in a person’s life. Name some common idols in our culture today. Have these idols infiltrated the body of Christ called the church? If so, in what ways?

GROW Watch the DVD for Session 2 now. Use the space below to record your thoughts, key points and questions you would like to remember or discuss.

GROWTH THROUGH UNDERSTANDING: Throughout Scripture, we are instructed to “remember” God or the things He has done. A few examples include:

- 1 Chronicles 16:12 “Remember the wonderful deeds which He has done”
- Matthew 16:9 “Do you not understand or remember the five loaves?”
- Revelation 3:3 “So remember what you have received and heard”
- 2 Timothy 2:8 “Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel”

And in this week's key passage, we are asked to remember the Lord our God who has given us the power to create wealth. God confirms or keeps His covenant with us by giving us the power to create wealth as His stewards.

Similar to how communion acts as a remembrance of Christ's *salvific* or *saving* covenant, kingdom stewardship (God's provision of resources and our management of these resources) serves as a continual reminder of His dominion covenant. We are commanded to rule over and manage our spheres of influence as faithful kingdom stewards. But our rule and management of God's resources come with restrictions as we saw with Adam and Eve regarding the tree in the middle of the garden. These commands and restrictions keep us in alignment with God's sole ownership and ultimate rule above all as King.

A covenant can be defined as a *divinely created bond through which God administers His Kingdom program designed to bring God's greatest blessing to mankind who operate under its guidelines*. When you operate under the governance of a covenant, you allow the benefits of the kingdom to work in your life so that God's kingdom rule can be accomplished. When this happens, you are overruling and not being overruled by your circumstances and operating as a kingdom steward under the covenantal covering of Almighty God.

NOTES

GROWTH THROUGH DISCUSSION: As you dive into the heart of Dr. Evans' teaching, use the following questions to generate discussion among your group.

1. What is one of the reasons God placed the tree that Adam and Eve were not to touch directly in the middle of their garden? Why is it important to remember who the owner is?
 2. How important is it to "remember God" in our daily lives and not just when we attend church or a small group study? Explain.
 3. When you operate under the covenant, you get the benefits of the covenant. What are some of these potential benefits regarding this area of stewardship?
 4. Dr. Evans compared covenantal covering to an umbrella. It doesn't stop the rain, but it does stop the rain from raining on you. What are some things a person could do to get out of alignment and lose the presence and protection of this covering? What are possible consequences?
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SERVE Now is the time to apply the wisdom of what you have learned to your life, demonstrating the depth of your relationship with God through service to Him and others.

SERVING GOD: You may not think of prayer or worship as a way of serving God, but in this week's key verse, we are instructed to "remember" the Lord, our God. One way to remember God is to abide in prayer and worship. Set aside additional time each day this week to thank God and worship Him for all that He has given to you.

SERVING OTHERS: Identify a person in your circle of influence who could use a boost of encouragement. Then ask God to show you what you can either do or say to be a source of encouragement to that person this week.



DAY ONE

MEDITATE: Proverbs 30:8-9

MOVE: This passage can easily be called the “middle-class prayer.” Essentially, Agur is asking God not to make him so rich that he forgets God or so poor that he has to go out and steal. He asks God to give him what he can handle. Too much wealth can create a sense of independence from God. Thus, the wisdom of this passage is to remain in a financial state that you can handle that is in alignment with God as His kingdom representative. Does everyone handle wealth or an excess of resources the same way? From a spiritual perspective, what are some of the character qualities that contribute to the effective management of God’s blessings?

DAY THREE

MEDITATE: John 3:27

MOVE: All that we receive has been given to us from God Himself. There is nothing we have been given that did not first originate from God. Even if it passed through another source to get to us, the originator (and owner) is ultimately God. It can be a challenge to remember the true source of our blessings because it’s easy to fall into the trap of thinking we earned it, deserved it or somehow we made it ourselves. Yet God is our Source, and everyone else is just a resource, including us. Spend a moment in prayer relinquishing any thoughts or feelings of ownership you may have for the blessings in your life. Now work on developing a spiritual mindset that acknowledges all things come from God.

DAILY STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLE:

Live out God’s Kingdom principles here on earth by putting feet to your faith. Over the next 5 days, use the Daily Stewardship Principle to help you meditate on God’s word.

DAY FOUR

MEDITATE: Deuteronomy 30:16-19

MOVE: In Deuteronomy 30:16, Moses told the people once more the requirements for life: to love God, walk in his ways and keep his commands. Moses also declared a warning of judgment if the people chose to disobey. After that came the moment of decision when Moses said to the Israelites, “Choose life so that you and your descendants may live.” God himself is the life of His people, and only He could prolong their days in the promised land. Therefore, to experience the favor of God, His people must place divine revelation over their human reasoning. Can “life and death” be symbolic of other things as well? If yes, what are some things that can represent life and death?

DAY TWO

MEDITATE: Deuteronomy 8:11

MOVE: This verse is set in the context of the Israelites and the promised land. In contrast to the hardships of the wilderness, the promised land held out the prospect of abundant water, crops, and minerals—a land so rich that when the people enjoyed its bounty they would bless the LORD for giving them such a good land. But with prosperity came the temptation to forget the LORD. The human heart can quickly turn from thanking God for his blessings to puffing itself up with pride. Paul told the Romans, “I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think” (also see Romans 12:3). Ultimately, to be prideful is to lie to yourself about yourself. In what ways do people in today’s culture “forget” God when they have been blessed?

DAY FIVE

MEDITATE: Genesis 2:15

MOVE: Adam’s calling was unique, but we can all learn about our divine purpose through Adam because he was the prototype for all humanity. God asked Adam to work a specific garden—cultivating it, working the ground and bringing out the hidden potential of all that God had made. He was also to guard and protect that for which he was given responsibility. It is the same with us. Each of us has a “garden,” a God-given sphere of responsibility that God has placed within our care. Briefly describe the “garden” God has given to you. In what ways are you cultivating it, and in what ways can you better cultivate it moving forward? steward?

