



KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP

SESSION 7: THE REWARDS

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.”

Matthew 6:33

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: What are some common rewards God gives for living as a kingdom steward? What are some uncommon rewards? Are there any things we may overlook as rewards?

GROW Watch the DVD for Session 7 now. Use the space below to record your thoughts, key points and questions you would like to remember or discuss.

GROWTH THROUGH UNDERSTANDING: Nearly always, employers will put together what is known as a “benefits package” to both attract and retain excellent employees. This package includes bonus items that go above and beyond the standard pay. As God’s kingdom steward, you can also expect to receive benefits for managing His resources in such a way that both protects and expands kingdom assets. The first benefit you can expect to receive is answered prayer. When God sees that you have prioritized the stewardship of His kingdom, you will experience a greater level of connection to God and response from God regarding your own requests.

According to Philippians 4:18-19, the second benefit you receive is your needs being met. When you are faithful to use the resources at your disposal to help meet the needs of others, God will in turn meet your needs. The worst thing you could ever do is be a self-centered saint. Why? Because you are literally reducing, or cutting off, your own needs being met by refusing to be a kingdom resource for others. God meets needs when you

meet the needs of those around you.

A third benefit you receive for kingdom stewardship is emotional well-being. Many of the pains in our lives have to do with emotional instability. But when you honor God as a kingdom steward, He brings calm to your chaos. When you put God in His rightful place (first,) you no longer have to worry or be anxious because you know that “God’s got it.” God’s got whatever challenge you are facing, and He will work it out for your good and His glory.

A fourth benefit due you when you operate as a kingdom steward is that of divine guidance. God teaches you how to bring about profit and productivity by giving you ideas, thoughts, concepts and more. He leads you toward the fulfillment of your purpose in Him. As you walk in that purpose, you discover the abundant life Christ promised in John 10:10. God’s “benefit package” includes these four things and more. You will discover them all personally the more you faithfully manage all He’s placed at your disposal.

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. Recap the four stated benefits of living faithfully as a kingdom steward, and expand your discussion of how each one shapes and impacts the faith of a believer.

2. Have you personally ever experienced any of these benefits? In what ways did this improve your situation?
 3. Linking emotional well-being to “stewardship” isn’t always a common thought. Describe how the two connect and share some ways others in your sphere of influence can be made more aware of this connection as you seek to disciple them.
 4. What are some additional benefits for living as a kingdom steward that weren’t mentioned in this week’s lesson?
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SERVE Now is the time to apply the wisdom of what you have learned to your life, as you express the depth of your relationship with God through service to Him and others.

SERVING GOD: Make a list of ways God has blessed you with any of the benefits that come from living as a faithful kingdom steward. Spend some time thanking Him for each one throughout the week.

SERVING OTHERS: Make it your intention this week to personally disciple someone else regarding these benefits, or even multiple people. Expand their awareness of the blessings that come from living rightly under God’s rules – particularly as it relates to stewardship.



DAY ONE

MEDITATE:
Philippians 4:18-19

MOVE: In this passage, Paul recounts the Philippians' faithfulness to him in the past, desiring to increase their account—that is, their heavenly reward. Paul had received an abundance from them. He then says that they will be blessed for their generosity. In other words, they did something in 4:18, and God responded in 4:19. Their generosity led to God's provision. God is concerned not only with our receiving from him, but also that others receive from us. How does this change your approach to serving as a steward of blessing to others?

DAY THREE

MEDITATE:
Deuteronomy 14:23

MOVE: Birds don't worry about where they're going to get their next meal, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Flowers don't spin their wheels to look pretty, but not even Solomon in all his splendor could match the beauty in the fields of God's creation. Then if God gives this kind of attention to birds and flowers, won't He do much more for you?

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: Proverbs 10:22

MOVE: A blessing is a God-given capacity to enjoy His goodness in your life. Money and good health are certainly nice things to have, but they are not necessarily blessings in the biblical sense. Many people have such things but don't enjoy them and aren't blessed by them. They have no sense of God's peace or satisfaction in their hearts, and thus even "good" things can become a source of unhappiness or discontentment. But when God pours out His goodness to you, He gives you joy and peace and satisfaction with it, regardless of your particular situation. Identify any areas of provision in your life that do not seem accompanied with peace and joy. Ask God for wisdom on how to adjust that and get in alignment under Him in those areas.

DAY TWO

MEDITATE: Psalm 37:25

MOVE: God will keep His people's blessings secure until the time is right to dispense them—sometimes in history but mostly in eternity. He is like a loving father to His people. Even when they fall, He holds them with His hand, a gentle but firm grip. God's children will not be abandoned. Instead, He is generous to them so that they, in turn, are a blessing to others. Draw out the cycle of giving/blessing that God outlines for us in this passage and in other similar passages.

DAY FIVE

MEDITATE: Isaiah 48:17-18

MOVE: God is the one who teaches us which way we are to go. His guidance brings about profit and productivity. He does this through giving us ideas or concepts to implement. Oftentimes, these ideas will require an element of faith. They may even require sacrifice on our part but when we are obedient to them, He brings about His benefits in our lives. Ask the Holy Spirit every day (or even throughout the day) for wisdom and guidance in conversations, activities and long-term planning. Try to implement what He leads you to do.

