



KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP

SESSION 5: THE MOTIVATION

“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” 2 Corinthians 9:6

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: Is it wrong to expect and anticipate a harvest as a farmer? In what ways does expecting a harvest and the sale of that harvest motivate the farmer? What motivates us as Christians to do good works? What are some of the spiritual rewards for doing good works? Discuss ways we downplay spiritual rewards as returns for good works, which could explain why many Christians aren't motivated to do good works.

GROW Watch the DVD for Session 5 now. Use the space below to record your thoughts, key points and questions you would like to remember or discuss.

GROWTH THROUGH UNDERSTANDING: What should motivate us to be kingdom stewards of our time, talents and treasures? How can we be inspired to adopt and put into action the principle of kingdom stewardship? To help us better understand, God has a farming principle that illustrates the “cause and effect” of managing His resources His way. It's a familiar principle known as sowing and reaping.

In effect, a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop or harvest. The principle of “sowing and reaping” transcends farming and extends to the spiritual realm of God's magnificent grace. When applied fully, it allows us to tap into the grace that God has stored up for each of us. We studied the concept of grace in last year's small group Bible study. Let's again review the definition grace. Grace is defined as the inexhaustible goodness of God that He freely gives to mankind which is not deserved, cannot be earned, and can never

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 four things did Dr. Evans say a farmer must be concerned with when it comes to sowing and reaping? Discuss the importance of each of these four things.
 2. Describe what would happen if a farmer chose only to pray and did not plant any seeds? How does this apply to spiritual sowing and reaping as a kingdom steward?
 3. What is the result of living as a "conduit" and not a "culd-e-sac" Christian as it relates to your resources, blessings and God's grace? Consequently, what is the result of the reverse...living as a "culd-e-sac" Christian?
 4. Reaping and sowing involve seasons. Describe the gap time between both as taught in today's lesson. How does this relate to spiritual stewardship? In what ways ought this increase both our patience and diligence when it comes to "good works" and extending grace?
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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: God loves a cheerful giver. Whatever you normally give this week, focus on your heart as you give (whether it's your time, abilities and treasures in caring for your family, helping your co-workers, doing random acts of kindness with strangers or sharing your finances to support the work of the ministry). The goal is to be a cheerful giver. In what ways do you need to adjust your attitude so that you can give more cheerfully?

SERVING OTHERS: Following the principle in Luke 6:38, identify a specific desire you have for your own life (a financial breakthrough, overcoming loneliness, being less critical or a career recognition). Now find a way to help or minister to someone with a similar desire this week.



DAY ONE

MEDITATE:
2 Corinthians 9:7

MOVE: The amount you give is up to you. Allow the Holy Spirit to move in your heart, leading you toward a specific amount to give. That way, you are giving from a heart of gratitude and not from an attitude of compulsion. God loves when a person gives freely and fully in response to their love for Him. However big or small, choose an amount you can give this week from a cheerful heart. When you give it, remember to offer thanks to the Lord for enabling you to be a cheerful giver.

DAY TWO

MEDITATE: Luke 6:38

MOVE: Kingdom men and women will give generously in time, prayer, finances, and service. They realize their source is not them. All they have has been given to them as a loan from heaven to be used to bless others. God rewards sacrificial generosity done in His Name with an overflow of spiritual blessings that are received in time or eternity. That is to say, the "it" that is given is often the "it" that is returned. Choose to listen attentively to someone who needs a listening ear this week, and see how "it" is returned to 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 THREE

MEDITATE: James 4:6

MOVE: God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. The sin of pride places us in opposition to God causing Him to resist us. No sin is more offensive to God than the sin of pride. For it was pride that casts Lucifer from heaven when he exalted himself above God (see Isaiah 14:12-14). The only remedy for pride is humility. When we humble ourselves before the Lord, we access His greater grace. Spend some time in prayer asking God to give you humility in any area where you need it most.

DAY FOUR

MEDITATE: 2 Corinthians 9:8

MOVE: The good that we do in life comes directly from God, our Source. He gives us an abundance of grace so that in ALL things at ALL times we have ALL we need to do good works. Grace supplies the desire, motivation, power, insight and skill for us to walk in His will and carry out good works. Take a moment to think of something you want to do for God but it feels difficult or challenging. Now pray and meditate on 2 Corinthians 9:8. And thank God for His grace that will empower you for that difficult task.

DAY FIVE

MEDITATE: Ecclesiastes 11:1

MOVE: Our verse for today reminds you to practice fiscal responsibility. As a responsible steward, you should give your investments time to grow and diversify. Never put all your eggs in one basket. That way, you are prepared for unexpected expenses. You should also practice professional responsibility on your job. As a kingdom steward, you are called to work responsibly in order to grow or maximize the resources God has given you. Identify one thing you do with your time or talents or spend with your money that is less responsible. How can you become more accountable in this area? Now put your answer into practice this week.