

# STEWARDSHIP

SAMPLE

 **access**  
downloadable curriculum

ISBN: 9780892651733

© 2009 Randall House Copying, distributing, or sharing this study beyond the use of the purchasing church or single campus site is a breach of ethics and illegal. It is also a breach of the license agreement to remove this statement from the study or from any customized or derivative study. To purchase this study or others like it, visit <http://AccessBibleStudies.com>

# Stewardship 101

Christian stewardship is one of the most important topics for believers to understand. This study can be used for new converts and mature believers. The five lessons in Stewardship 101 help focus the participants' attention to the biblical plan of giving back to God. The work of God's kingdom is dependent on regular financial support of His people. The study reviews the topics of tithing, a life of stewardship, giving offerings in addition to the tithe, living our whole life as an offering to God and giving the gospel to others.

## *SESSION ONE—From the Heart*

The purpose of this first session is to introduce God's biblical plan for personal and collective giving for Christians. Also to understand the importance of establishing the correct foundation upon which the biblical plan of giving rests.

## *SESSION TWO—Stewards of More Than Money*

We will learn the meaning of true Christian stewardship and define the responsibility of every Christian to manage the things which God has entrusted.

## *SESSION THREE—Tithing: God's Systematic and Proportional Plan for Giving*

The purpose of this session is to define and understand God's special pattern of giving for the Christian.

## *SESSION FOUR—Beyond the Tithe*

We will learn that Christian stewardship is more than the tithe; it means being good stewards of all that God has blessed us with.

## *SESSION FIVE—Good Stewards of the Great Gospel*

Our purpose in this session is to sense the urgency of understanding, preparing for, and sharing the rich treasure of Christ's glorious Gospel with those who have never experienced it.

# Session ONE

## From the Heart

Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Salt shaker
- Marker board and markers
- Copies of student handout, etc.

### LESSON OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this first session is to introduce God's biblical plan for personal and collective giving for Christians. Also to understand the importance of establishing the correct foundation upon which the biblical plan of giving rests.

### CONNECT

Bring a salt shaker to the session. Be sure the salt can be easily identified. Pour some salt into your hand as you briefly explain to your participants that you would like them to think of uses for salt. Tell the group they will be playing a round of "salt tag." Hand the salt shaker to a participant and ask him/her to name one use for salt. Ask if others in the room can think of uses for salt and have the participant select one and pass the salt shaker to him/her. Continue this process until several uses have been identified. Now ask your group if they know the two major chemicals salt is comprised of and is there anything special about these chemicals (sodium and chloride)? Point out that both chemicals are highly poisonous. But a strange thing happens when they are combined. Instead of bringing harm and injury separately, when combined they provide tremendous benefits to mankind.

Transition into the study by mentioning that money when combined with God's planned use, creates many wonderful benefits for the Christian. Move into the heart of the lesson by asking the group members to look at 2 Corinthians 8:1-7. Have someone read the passage.

Mention to your participants that God is more interested in leading us to live rich lives filled with joy, love and obedience than He isn't simply trying to get our money. God is also interested in churches who find joy in giving. Ask your participants to list ways churches raise money other than receiving offerings? (Raffles, dinners, yard sales, etc.) Do you think these churches find great joy in giving?

### CONSIDER

*Give Abundantly* - The Christians at Macedonia were suffering under very difficult circumstances. They were in real trouble and were probably being persecuted for their faith. Remind your student that certainly there was some kind of great trouble that might have distracted them. It obviously did not.

Ask your participants what giving out of *deep poverty* could mean? Many would suppose that poverty prevents people from giving. Remind your group members that it might hinder from giving as much as some would like but it never hinders from giving something. *Spiritual poverty* prevents people from giving. The Christian who has something to wear has something to give. The Christian who has money or possessions can give a portion of that to God. The Macedonian Christians did not have great material wealth, but they

were spiritually rich. They gave *generously even beyond their ability*. They literally gave all they could give and went beyond that. Remind your participants that the amount the Macedonian Christians gave, considering their circumstances, truly is amazing. They could have used their difficult financial circumstances as an excuse not to give anything. On the contrary, they gave abundantly and God honored them by placing their attitude and actions into the biblical record as an example for future Christian generations to observe and imitate.

*Give Voluntarily* – No one wants to be *forced* to give. Most people who work have taxes taken out of their checks automatically. They are not giving this money to the government voluntarily—the government is taking it. Since most people do not want to willingly and freely give thousands of dollars each year to the government, the government set up a system to take the money before we get it. Compare this to financially supporting the work of God. By referring your participants to 2 Corinthians 8:3-4. They gave *willingly and freely* according to verse three. They also *begged* Paul to take their gifts. Remind your group members how blessed it is when Christian people give because they long to give, they enjoy giving and do not have to be begged or made to feel guilty to give.

*Give Properly* – Remind your participants that *how we give* is important. The offering among the Macedonians was a good thing, pleasing in the eyes of Christ. Ask them if they've been in services when the way the offering was taken might not have been pleasing to Christ? Unfortunately, sometimes in our churches the giving is such a burden. The plea for money is so persistent that it leaves a bad taste in people's mouths. The amount given is meager and causes bad talk among the members and brings criticism in the church. God's people should never cause an offering to become an embarrassment to Him or His kingdom. Remind your participants the Apostle Paul called the Macedonian Christians' giving a *grace of God*. He urges us all to pattern our giving after the way the Christians at Macedonia gave. This kind of giving makes a lasting impact on the unsaved in the world. It separates the saint from the ways of materialism and selfishness in the world. They will see the joy we experience in giving and want to know more about why one would do this. Ask your group members what fundamental reason brought all this joy, generosity, praise to God and growing in grace and Christian character to the Macedonian Christians? The answer is found in verse 5. The people first gave themselves to God and to God's preacher, Paul. Then the money became incidental and their loving hearts poured out in gratitude to God. Tell your group members that it only stands to reason that if a person gives himself to God then his wallet or purse is sure to follow. Parallel to that truth is that any kind of consecration that does not reach the purse has not really reached the heart. The key to *properly* giving is that we give ourselves to Christ unreservedly, this moment, tomorrow and forever!

## **COMMIT**

Remind your participants that God owns the cattle on a thousand hills and the hills the cattle stand on (Psalm 50:10-12). God cares little about worldly possessions. His main concern is with the hearts, devotion, love and obedience of His children. God wants the heart. Once we give Him our hearts He will make the giving of money or property easy. Giving is a natural expression of the heart's devotion. Let us give abundantly, voluntarily and properly.

# Student Handout 1

## From the Heart

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

*What does it mean to...*

*Give Abundantly -*

*Give Voluntarily -*

*Give Properly -*

Giving is a natural expression of the heart's devotion.

SAMPLE