

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

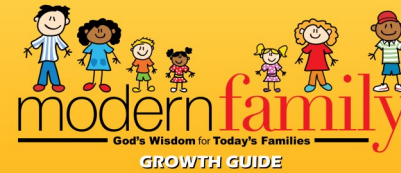
PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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Study: 12/09/18

Modern Family Finances

The Bible tells us that God created the earth and everything that’s in and on it. So, it is safe to say that God owns it all – as in lock, stock and barrel. “The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it. For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers” (Psalm 24:1–2 NASB).

And the Bible clearly indicates that we have been created in the very image of God and are given the task of managing God’s wonderful property – all of it. “God blessed them; and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth’” (Genesis 1:28 NASB). “The LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15 NASB).

Whatever else “created in God’s image” indicates, at least it implies that we have the prospect and privilege to be full partners with God in maintaining His vast creation, not as slaves of menial tasks, but as gifted managers commissioned to creatively oversee the resources around us in order to produce what God values most.

However, problems can arise in the struggles of day-to-day living that cause us to lose sight of our awesome and honorable assignment as managers, or stewards, of God’s property. God has divided the job among so many of us that most of us have direct responsibility for what may be only a very small amount of resources.

What resources has God asked you to manage? Of course you’ve got a car, maybe a house with a mortgage and possibly some money in the bank. Chances are that you don’t see those things as assets you’re managing on behalf of God – you see them as your possessions. But, are they yours?

What might happen if you were to understand that those things that you consider yours really belong to God? Your life would dramatically change if you were to understand that what you’ve thought of as yours really belongs to God, and you need to manage those things according to His values and in pursuit of His extremely important agenda.

Admitting that what you have belongs to God doesn’t limit your importance in a faulty world. Instead, this perspective actually gives you dignity you may not have known was yours.

God’s goal isn’t simply to keep you and your family reasonably comfortable – He has a kingdom to build, and you’re a part of His management team in accomplishing that plan.

Source: excerpt from “Stewardship: Being Co-Managers With God” by Harvey Nowland

KEY VERSE

Matthew 25:21

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Matthew 25:14-29

Introduction

1. What lessons did you learn about money from your family growing up?
2. What principles from this passage can help your family's finances today?

Tuesday: Dueteronomy 10:14; Psalm 50:10-12; Matthew 25:14-18

God Owns Everything

3. What do these verses teach about the ownership of your possessions?
4. Prayerfully evaluate your attitude of ownership towards your possessions. Do you consistently recognize the true owner of these possessions?

Wednesday: Romans 14:12; Matthew 6:24; Matthew 25:19

God Holds Us Accountable

5. Imagine that you are one of God's financial managers and it is job review time. How do you think the review would go?
6. Ask God to show you what areas of your family finances you are doing well in and which need some improvement. What are your strengths and weaknesses in this area?

Thursday: Mark 12:41-44; Luke 16:10-13; Matthew 25:20-23

Use Money For Good

7. How well do you manage your finances according to God's values?
8. What are some things you are doing to invest in eternity?
9. What is the difference between a want and a need? How can denying yourself some of your "wants" put you in a better position to save or to give?

Friday: Hebrews 11:6; Malachi 3:10; Matthew 25:24-29

God Will Reward Faithful Management

10. List some things that can get in the way of faithful money management.
11. Describe a time you have been faithful with money and God has rewarded you.
12. If you have children, what are you teaching them about finances?