

A Character study:

Being a Good Steward

“And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:15-17

This character study is designed to illustrate this character trait using verses, stories, consequences of sin and blessings of obedience found through out the Bible.

Each day you will learn a verse, read a story where this sin is illustrated, then discuss the consequences of this sin followed up by the blessings of obedience. I encourage discussion with your children on ways they can help one another to stay free from this sin.

Resources: This study was created using references from the Bible and the book “For Instruction in Righteousness” by Pam Forster

Being a Good Steward

Memory Verse:

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

Day 1

What does being a good steward mean? The good steward is someone who is doing the best he can with the things that God has given him. The meaning involves how the precious gifts that God has given to all are used and cared for.

What types of things are we to be good stewards of? (*toys, house, clothes, etc*)

Does being a good steward only apply to material possessions? (*no*)

What else can it apply to? (*Relationships, etc*)

Story:

Luke 15:11-20 Parable of the Lost Son

Blessings of Obedience:

Luke 15:20 But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Consequences of sin:

Luke 15:21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

Questions:

1. What did the younger son do with his inheritance?
2. How do you think it made his father feel to treat his gift this way?
3. Why do you think the son said he "sinned against heaven" (Luke 15:21)
4. Why did the celebrate when the younger son returned home?
5. How do you think this relates to our relationship with God?

Challenge: Be faithful to take care of our home today

Activity: Make a list of things that God has blessed your family with. Make 2 columns: Worldly & Eternal. Discuss which list is more important to us.

Day 2

Story:

Matthew 25:1-13 Parable of the foolish women unprepared for bridegroom.

Blessings of Obedience:

Matthew 25:7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. (The prepared ladies were allowed into fellowship with the bridegroom)

Consequences of sin:

Matthew 25:10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

Questions:

1. What happened to the foolish women in this story?
2. What does it mean when Jesus told the women "I don't know you"?(Matthew 25:12)

Challenge: Be faithful to take care of yours and other's things (ie: toys) today.

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Day 3

Story:

Matthew 25:14-30

Blessings of Obedience:

Matthew 25:21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Consequences of sin:

Matthew 25:30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Questions:

1. Why was the master angry with the lazy servant?
2. What happened to the lazy servant?
3. What happened to the good servants who took care of the master's money?
4. Why do you think we should be good stewards of what we have?
(Because it is not ours, but God's! We glorify the Lord when we are careful with what He has blessed us with.)

Challenge: Be faithful to take care of our siblings feelings today.

Activity: Have everyone go into their rooms and purge them of any toys they might not use anymore. Pack everything up and take a trip to the Good Will, or any other donation location to share our blessings with others. If it is Christmas Time, you might want to consider getting involved in [Operation Christmas Child!](#)

Day 4

Story:

Luke 16:1-14 Parable of the Shrewd Manager

Blessings of Obedience:

Luke 16:8-9 "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

Consequences of sin:

Luke 16:10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."

Questions:

1. What does it mean that we can't serve 2 masters? (Luke 16:13)
2. What does it mean that God knows our hearts? (Luke 16:15)
3. How do you think we are to treat other people's property? (Deuteronomy 22:1-4 Respect others property)

Challenge: Be faithful to take care of your animals today, if you don't have any, make a birdfeeder and take care of God's wild animals!

Good Steward Card: Add this apple to your character tree! (If you haven't already, put up a tree using brown and green construction paper. Each week you will add a new apple to the tree).

Being a Good Steward

Review Questions:

1. How does being a good steward effect others?
2. How does being a good steward effect our relationship with God?

Application:

1. What does good stewardship look like in our home?
2. How can we practice being a good steward?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, Please help me to become a good steward of all that You have blessed me with so that I can glorify You. I thank you and praise you for all you've done for me. Amen.

Additional Verses:

Proverbs 21:20 The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down.

1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Proverbs 31:20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

Matthew 25:11-12 foolish women were not received by Jesus.

1 Corinthians 10:33 even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Matthew 14:20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

Proverbs 18:9 One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.

1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:1-11 Live for Christ, use whatever gifts we have to serve others.

