

STRONGER CHURCHES

MODULE 5

Proper Stewardship of Resources

FACILITATOR GUIDE



OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

1. Guide the church to an understanding of holistic stewardship.
2. Describe the five T's related to stewardship.

TIME FOR SHARING & PRAYER

Read Luke 12:42-48

DO: Welcome the group back.

SAY: In a few minutes we will take time to review your hard work, ask questions, and share with one another.

Today's module is called Resources

By the end of this module, the participant will be able to

1. Guide the church to an understanding of holistic stewardship.
2. Describe the five T's related to stewardship.

TIME FOR SHARING & PRAYER

SAY: Before we get too far in the module, we would like to spend some time in God's Word and give opportunities for testimonies and prayer. Let's begin.

ASK: Who would like to read Luke 12:42-48?

ASK: (Allow time for responses before moving to the next question).
What is it we should avoid doing as believers regarding the good use of money and material assets?

Do you practice generosity? Do you know a generous person? Why do you think of them as generous?

SAY: According to the previous text, we see the importance of having holistic stewardship not only economically but also with every other resource God provides. In this module, we see how God provides for us to do our work with valuable and important resources.

We do not own anything in the Kingdom of God; we are only stewards. God is the creator of heaven and earth and He is the legitimate owner of the entire cosmos.

ASK: Before we get to resources, would anyone like to share a testimony or information on the report on how God has transformed you or someone else in your community?

What is it we should avoid doing as believers regarding the good use of money and material assets?

Do you practice generosity? Do you know some generous person? Why do you think of them as generous?

Session 1: Biblical Foundation

ADEQUATE STEWARDSHIP |

Matthew 6:19-21,
2 Corinthians 9:6-9, 15

The "5 T's" of Stewardship

1. Terrain or Earth
2. Time
3. Talents and Gifts
4. Temple, our Body
5. Treasure

DO: Collect Healthy Church Reports and have participants report on implementing their action plans from the previous module.

DO: Pray.

Session 1: Biblical Foundation

ADEQUATE STEWARDSHIP | Matthew 6:19-21, 2 Corinthians 9:6-9, 15

SAY: STEWARDSHIP

The church effectively challenges its members to be good stewards of their possessions, resources, and goods (time, talent, and treasure). It utilizes these resources and financial donations to carry out the work of the Kingdom of God in the church and its community.

As humans created in the image of God, we have been called to be stewards of all creation for the glory of God. Healthy congregations recognize the "cultural mandate" God has given us and understand the higher calling this represents.

Matthew 6:19-21 reminds us that we have been given possessions, resources, and goods, not to be saved for what we want, but rather to use them for God and His Kingdom.

God wants us to take good care of our material possessions. There are around 500 verses in the Bible that talk about prayer and another 500 about faith. However, more than 2,000 verses speak to the issue of our material possessions.

God wants Christians to learn to willingly share what they have with other people, to be generous (2 Corinthians 9:6-9, 15).

THE "5 T'S" OF STEWARDSHIP

DO: As you go through the 5 T's, take time to pause between each concept, allowing participants to ask questions and/or make comments.

EARTH OR TERRAIN |

Genesis 1:12; 8:21-22

As the texts show, God values the earth and is committed to its wellbeing. Psalm 104:31 tells us that God rejoices or takes pleasure in His creation! What are some of the reasons the Psalmist gives for God's rejoicing? Already at the very beginning, God gave responsibilities to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 1:26).

When we have a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ, we are called to honor God by being responsible stewards of our natural resources.

TIME | Colossians 4:5

God gives us the hours, days, weeks, and years of our lives as gifts to use wisely (Psalm 90:12, John 9: 4, Colossians 4: 5). We are to make the most of every opportunity (redeem the time) (Ephesians 5:16).

Genesis 1:5, 2:2, Exodus 20:11. How did God divide each day of creation? How was the creation week divided? How does our rest honor God? What happens when we rest well? What happens when we do not take time to rest?

Think about the many opportunities our society provides for our recreation and entertainment. Which of these opportunities honor God by providing rest and renewal for your body and spirit? Which do not?

TALENTS AND GIFTS | 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

We receive talents and other gifts from God. God gives us these abilities to honor Him and do good for others.

1 Peter 4:10-11. What are some kinds of gifts exercised in the church? As parents, we strive to help our children and youth develop their gifts and talents. In turn, what can we as church leaders do to help adults in the Body to develop their gifts and talents?

TEMPLE, OUR BODY | Psalm 139:13-14

God gives each one of us the gift of having a physical body. How does Psalm 139:13-14 describe our body? Name some of the things that make our bodies so amazing and marvelous.

Ephesians 2:10: We are the work of God, created in Jesus Christ to do good deeds. Take a few moments to reflect on what is important to you, as a leader or parent, in the training of your children or youth to discipline their bodies. What are some practical ways that you can do this?

In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 9:27, we see that Paul wanted to ensure that his body honored God and was a place where the Holy Spirit would find a good home.

TREASURE | Matthew 25:14-30

The parable of the talents teaches us about how we use our financial and material resources. We should also reflect on the ways in which we can develop those financial and material resources.

Matthew 25:14-30 can be summed up by saying God provides economic resources to be administered and multiplied so that we can satisfy our needs and the needs of our families. Proverbs 11:24-25 encourages us to share with the needy.

It is important that the church leadership leads by example in the matter of resource stewardship. Leaders must give offerings and tithes with thanksgiving and joy. Churches must teach Christian stewardship to all members as a part of the discipleship program.

It is part of responsible leadership to teach about the blessing of giving and the proper stewardship of resources.

A strong church will have a clear and inspiring vision that will be communicated by the leaders as they mobilize all the congregation to ministry. God provides the necessary resources, which are to be managed appropriately, while the community of believers accomplishes their task of pointing to the mission of God in their community context.

It is the responsibility of the leaders and the treasurer to account for the income and expenses and inform about how these have contributed to a more effective participation in the mission of God. It is essential to report periodically to the congregation about the ways in which their tithes and offerings are being utilized. This can inspire confidence and respect from the congregation concerning the good use of their offerings.

Session 2: Tools

DISCUSSION GROUPS: Divide into 2 to 4 discussion groups. Each group will take a set of the following questions. Designate a reporter for each group. Don't only think about congregational application but also personally and with your family.

GROUP 1

What happens when leaders of the church don't teach that daily tasks are important and glorify God?
Genesis 1:28, 2:15; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10

What happens when pastors don't help the members of the church find a productive job or task?
1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:10; Titus 3:14

What happens when pastors give the impression that their own job is more important than ordinary tasks?
1 Corinthians 12:21-26; Acts 20:34-35, 18:1-3; James 2:1-5

GROUP 2

What happens when the church seems to be more interested in obtaining members' funds rather than in developing their gifts and being productive? *1 Peter 5:2, Acts 20:34-35, Ephesians 4: 11-13*

What happens when the offerings are presented as a burden instead of an opportunity to thank God?

Psalm 50:7-15, Matthew 10:8, 2 Corinthians 9:7, 15; Deuteronomy 16: 9-17

What happens when we don't give God our "first fruits" (the best)?

Genesis 4:1-5, Hebrews 11:4, Deuteronomy 26:1-3, 9-11

GROUP 3

What happens when we think some Christians just can't give?

Exodus 23: 15-17, 1st Corinthians 16:2; Exodus 34:20b

What happens when we think we can belong to God but ignore giving to God?

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

What happens when we don't provide for our children and neighbors in need?

Proverbs 28:27, James 1:27; Matthew 25:31-46

GROUP 4

What happens when we don't teach that each one must give according to their own resources?

Deuteronomy 16:17, Luke 12:47-48, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

What happens when we don't teach that tithes and offerings are important demonstration of our faith?

Malachi 3:6-10, Matthew 6:31-33, Psalm 37:25-28

What happens when we don't teach that God blesses those who give generously?

Proverbs 22:9, Luke 6:38, 2nd Corinthians 9:6-11 (See also: Malachi 3: 6-10)

SIX PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN OFFERING: 1 Corinthians 16:1-3

1. What should be given? (v.2)

2. What should be the frequency with which Christians give? (v.2)

3. When should Christians give? (v.2)

4. How should money be managed when we give together? What did the Apostle Paul say the church in Corinth should do to practice honesty, transparency, and responsibility? (v.3)

5. To whom should we give? (v. 1) Also read 2 Corinthians 9:1-2. Who are the needy in your church?

6. How can your church teach children and youth to manage their financial resources in this way?

Write a list of ways to properly use your time. Then, write another list of ways in which you waste your time.

EVALUATING OUR HOLISTIC STEWARDSHIP

The following tool uses a 1-10 scoring system, in which 1 represents complete disagreement or the lowest score and 10 represents excellence or strong agreement.

SAY: Let's review our Take Your Church's Pulse measurement result for this healthy characteristic. Was this an area of strength for our church or is this an area of weakness? Are there certain questions from the survey that we should pay special attention to as we prepare our action plan?

PROPER STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES											
1.	Our facilities are appropriate to carry out vocational and ministry activities.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Our church practices good stewardship, managing well its budget and resources.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Members voluntarily give of their time to serve the church in its ministries.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Our church regularly teaches about stewardship and tithing.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	I feel motivated to contribute with resources for ministry in our church.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	The leadership reports to the membership about the use of finances.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7.	The congregation takes good care of the pastor and its leaders.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Session 3: Action Plan and Goals

Based on what you learned in this module, create an action plan with clear goals for you and your local church.

For Pastors:

Have you identified a leader to mentor as a future church planter? Y or N

If yes, did you meet this month? Y or N

For Review:

Did you turn in the Healthy Church Report this month? Y or N

Look at the 7 Take Your Church's Pulse (TYCP) questions for this module (Session 4) and review your overall measurements.

What are your areas of strength (scores greater than 7)? _____

What are areas for growth (scores equal to or fewer than 7)? _____

Begin to develop an action plan. An action plan for implementing today's materials into your respective ministries is important and should be a habitual process for every step forward in your ministry. Based on what you learned in this module, create an action plan with clear goals for you and your local church.

An acronym that is helpful in planning is to develop **SMART** goals:

Specific: It describes specifically what I plan to do.

Measurable: I will be able to tell whether it was done or not.

Appropriate: Is it in line with God's will?

Realistic: It considers my limitations and availability.

Time-bound: It mentions an exact time period.

Example:

- By the end of the month, I will preach a sermon on integrated faith so that people will realize that God should be a part of every portion of life.
- By the end of the year, financial giving will increase by 5% from the previous year.
- In 6 months, 12 new believers will be saved.
- By next week, we will develop a plan for small groups that will start next fall.

Coming Up: Stronger Churches Module 6

You will help the church understand the concrete reality of the society where it serves to articulate a biblical message that is relevant and appropriate.

Healthy Church Report	MONTHLY GOAL	MONTHLY RESULT
SHARED THE VISION How many people inside and outside the church has the vision been shared with?		
LEADERS How many leaders has the church trained for small groups and ministry?		
SPIRITUAL GIFTS How many people has the church trained to use their spiritual gifts?		
TITHE How many people has the church asked to tithe toward the mission of the church?		
PRAYER How many people has your church prayed for in the community?		
SHARE FAITH How many people has the church trained to share their faith?		
SMALL GROUPS How many people has the church brought into small groups?		
COMMUNITY MINISTRIES How many people has the church brought into ministries that serve the community?		
NEW MEMBERS How many people has the church welcomed into relationships in the church?		
WORSHIP How many people has the church invited to worship each week at your church?		

How to Use Reports

- 1. REPORTING** - Included in each module is a tabulation sheet with ten metrics for measuring entitled *Healthy Church Report*. As the participant progresses through the modular training a new measurement is revealed on the tabulation sheet for monthly reporting. Monthly reporting is a key part of the training. This provides accountability and focus on what matters most for the training participants. If the participants know ahead of time what will be asked of them at the next module, they are more likely to do those activities that lead to the results to be reviewed.
- 2. PASTOR TRACK MENTORING** - Pastors are encouraged during the training to identify and mentor a future leader to be a church planter. Each month of the modular training the pastor is asked if a leader has been identified and if they have met for mentoring (see www.multiplicationnetwork.org/resources/ministry-toolbox/203-mentoring-workshop-2 for mentor training material). At the end of the Stronger Churches modular training: Pastors are encouraged to turn in a church planter profile report (<https://www.multiplicationnetwork.org/resources/ministry-toolbox/159-church-planter-profile>) and churches are encouraged to plant a church by sending the new leader for More Churches Modular training.