

AMPLIFY: Stewardship

Lesson 1: What's Yours Is Not Yours

What we want students to learn: That as God's children, we're called to see every resource we have as belonging to God and coming from Him

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To look at their lives and identify the areas where they're holding back from God by not seeing their resources as God's and not their own.

Scripture Focus: Psalm 24:1, Genesis 1:28-30, Genesis 2:15, Malachi 3:8-12

Overview:

One of the first words that children learn is "mine." They use it to claim what they believe is rightfully theirs. Like little children, many of us also have trouble with the concept of "mine." Your goal over the course of this study is to help students see that everything they have is not theirs but God's. As we introduce the concept of stewardship, students will see what it means to be a steward or manager of God's stuff, and failing to see this impacts how effectively they utilize their resources to further God's Kingdom. In Lesson 2, you'll teach students that Jesus modeled stewardship of His life by submitting Himself to His Father's plan by giving His all on the cross. In Lesson 3, you'll help students see examples of how the early church lived as stewards, and they too can seek to live their lives in a way that earns a "well done" from divine Master.

Lesson 2: Jesus: The Ultimate Model

What we want students to learn: That Jesus modeled stewardship for us in His willingness to step away from heaven to purchase salvation for His children.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To see their lives as God's to use to bring the lost into a saving relationship with Christ.

Scripture Focus: Colossians 1:15-20, 2 Corinthians 8:9, Matthew 20:25-28, Luke 22:39-44

Overview:

Jesus is the Son of God. As such He enjoys all the honor and awe due to Him. And based on our understanding of the Trinity, and our knowledge of Scripture, we can say that Jesus has always been. He is eternal. Combine these two truths—Jesus' identity as God's Son, and Jesus eternal nature—and we can rightfully say that Jesus has eternally enjoyed His rightful place as Lord over all things. And yet, sometime around 2,000 years ago, Jesus set aside the awesome trappings of His eternal dwelling in heaven and embraced life on our earth. He did so as one who was fully God, and fully human. We know from His life that He suffered greatly at the hands of the religious elite, but we can also imagine that He faced other human trials as well. He got tired. He got hungry. When He stubbed His toe, it hurt. Here's the amazing thing: Jesus willingly stepped away from His throne in Heaven, and willingly took on pain and suffering to save us from our sins and restore harmony to our relationship with God. If this is the ultimate model of stewardship of one's life, then nothing is. And in this lesson, your students will be challenged to learn from Jesus' example and to see their lives as belonging to God to be used for His glory.

Lesson 3: Living It Out

What we want students to learn: That living out the principle of stewardship means giving of yourself to serve others and God.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To help students identify real, practical ways they can model selfless stewardship of their lives to draw others closer to Christ by their example.

Scripture Focus: Romans 15:1-3, Galatians 6:1-2, 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15, Colossians 3:23-24, Acts 2:42-47

Overview: Modeling stewardship looks an awful lot like living as Christ would live if He were us. When we have a solid grasp of what it means to be good stewards of our lives, we understand that this is lived out through sacrificing to serve others and serve God. It means that we put the needs of others before our own. And we devote ourselves to being used to bring glory to God. This is a vital message for our students to hear, as it is entirely countercultural to the world around them. This lesson will challenge your students to identify real, practical ways they can model selfless stewardship of their lives to draw others closer to Christ by their example.