

AMPLIFY

GROWING A
FAITH THAT LASTS

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 48, 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 49, 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.

TEACHER PREP VIDEO

Each **Amplify** lesson comes with a Teacher Prep Video. These are short videos designed to help you grasp the main point of the lesson as you prepare to teach.

To access your **Stewardship** lesson 1 Teacher Prep Video, login to your Lesson Manager, navigate to lesson 1 and click on the "Background" tab. You'll notice the Teacher Prep Video near the top of the Lesson Manager window.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

The **Bible Background** is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. The Details gives you background info for each book, The Setting informs you what's happening in and around the passage, and The Main Point gives you an overview of how the passage will be used in the lesson.

- **What do we mean by "context"?** In every **YM360** Bible study lesson, you'll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By "context" we mean at the very least helping students know **who** wrote the book, **when** it was written, and **why** it was written.
- **What's the big deal?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don't get a "big picture" understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God's plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the **Bible Background** to help summarize the context.

THE DETAILS

Psalms

- **Author:** God inspired various authors to write a majority of the Psalms in their era, including seventy-three

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by David, twelve by Asaph, eleven by the Korahites and two by Solomon. Heman, Ethan, and Moses each wrote one, while the authorship of fifty other Psalms remains unknown.

- **Timeframe:** The Psalms were written during different eras of Israel's history, spanning from 1100 BC (i.e., Psalm 29, 68) to 400 BC (i.e., Psalm 119).
- **Purpose:** The Psalms are inspired by God to poetically reflect humanity's journey with Him. Each psalm serves a different purpose, such as a personal or communal lament, hymn, song, reflection or declaration. Many of these were set to music and intended to be shared publicly, even when sharing a revealing confession (i.e., Psalm 51).

Genesis

- **Author:** While there's no specific author named within the text, Moses is the accepted author for Genesis, with some editing and additions done after his death (such as the account of his death!).
- **Timeframe:** It's difficult to establish with any certainty a date for the completion of the Pentateuch (a name for the first five books of the Bible—including Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy—of which Genesis is a part.) Most of the material originated from Moses himself and depending on the date of the Exodus (which is also not known for sure) that would make the date for the writing of Genesis sometime in the 1400s or the 1200s BC.
- **Purpose:** Genesis details the earliest history of our world, including creation and Adam and Eve's fall. It also focuses on the emergence of Israel, not only as God's people, but as the group God would work through to bring redemption to the world.

Malachi

- **Author:** The Prophet Malachi is the author.
- **Timeframe:** While it's hard to know exactly when Malachi was written, it's believed that he was writing alongside other prophets Ezra and Nehemiah which would put the book being written sometime in the mid 5th century BC.
- **Purpose:** Malachi wrote his book in one of the starkest periods of Israel's history. Having repopulated Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity, the Temple and the city itself were a shell of their former glory. Malachi spoke of the coming glory of God in Christ, pointing toward a more hopeful future for God's children.

THE MAIN POINT

You'll start by teaching students a pretty simple, yet powerful point: Everything belongs to God. You'll support this statement by looking at Psalm 24. You'll explain that everything means "everything" and help students understand the implications this has for their lives. You'll then transition to showing students that God chose to make us stewards of what He created. You'll define the word steward and the role of a steward using Genesis 1:28-30 and Genesis 2:15 to discuss God giving humans the role of a steward over His creation. You'll help students see that Adam and Eve were to be sub-rulers under God's ultimate authority and representatives as stewards to manage His creation.

Finally you'll show students that when we fail to give God our best, we essentially misuse what He's given us. Malachi 3:8-12 calls this robbing God, and while this language is a little harsh, the principle is an important one. God expects us to use what He has given us at His pleasure to advance His Kingdom. It's an important lesson for your students to learn.

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LESSON PLAN

The **Lesson Plan** contains three elements: An introductory activity called **The Lead In**; the Bible study section called **The Main Event**; an application-focused segment called **The Last Word**.

THE LEAD IN

- **Goal:** To help students begin to understand the basic definition of the word stewardship from a Biblical perspective.
- **Set-Up:** You will need to do a little prep-work on a dry-erase board or sheet of paper before your group meets. You'll need to make two columns with various phrases and their meanings in them. In the first column, write propitiation, stewardship, sanctification, justification, eschatology, anthropomorphism, and omnipotence. In the second column write: *all-powerful, being made right, the doctrine of end times, becoming holy or perfected, the management of the things of God, removal of wrath by offering a gift, and using human terms to describe God.*

FIRST, begin by drawing students' attention to the board. Explain that in our culture different groups of people have certain words or phrases they use within their group that may seem strange to people outside the loop. Ask if anyone has ever heard a gymnast talk about sticking a dismount, or a football player talk about the red zone. Explain that even we as Christ-followers have our own lingo that's sometimes hard to learn, especially for those outside our faith.

NEXT, take turns attempting to draw a line from the word on the left side of the board to the correct definition on the right side. Do this by calling up different volunteers and seeing how well they do. Have fun with this. Let students get help from the audience, etc. Check their answers with the following key:

- **Propitiation:** removal of wrath by offering a gift
- **Stewardship:** the management of the things of God
- **Sanctification:** becoming holy or perfected
- **Justification:** being made right
- **Eschatology:** the doctrine of end times
- **Anthropomorphism:** using human terms to describe God
- **Omnipotence:** all-powerful.

THEN, ask the students if these are words they hear very often. Explain that while some of these words seem a little strange, they're all important words in that they help us better understand the nature of God and our response to Him as His children.

FINALLY, say:

- **Over the next three weeks, we are going to take a real close look at what the Bible says about one of the words in our activity today, and that is the word stewardship.**

Ask one of the students to read the definition of the word stewardship from the board. Then ask if anyone knows what would be "the things of God" on this Earth. You want to lead them to understand that it all belongs to Him because He created everything. Then ask them if everything belongs to God then what do they have that belongs to God, and the

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answer is everything.

Explain that the definition you would like to use for stewardship over the next three weeks is as follows:

- **As God's children, we are called to see every resource we have as belonging to God and coming from Him, and our task is to utilize our resources to the fullest extent for God's glory. Let's jump in.**

THE MAIN EVENT

- **Goal:** To help your students look at the word stewardship from an Old Testament perspective and discover what it means to be a manager of the things of God.
- **Set Up:** Make sure each student has a Bible or a copy of the Scriptures used in this lesson.

FIRST, begin the Bible study part of the lesson by telling the students that to better understand the meaning of godly stewardship you would like for them to look at some passages in the Old Testament. Remind them that the core of the word stewardship is to manage something, so the best place to begin is to find out what we as Christ-followers are called by God to manage.

THEN, read or have a student read Psalm 24:1-2. Point out that the writer of the psalm, David, begins by declaring that the Earth belongs to the Lord along with everything in it. Then, ask:

- **Name some of the things on this Earth that belong to God.**
 - Answers will vary, but could include people, animals, oceans, rivers, trees, mountains, cars, computers, hospitals, etc. David said this, "Everything belongs to the Lord." Explain that in verse two we find the reason is that He created it all!

NEXT, take a moment to remind them that even though some of the things we have today did not exist when David was alive some 3,000 years ago; it all still belongs to God because He was the original creator of all things. Say: All the technology and information we have available today is because God gave us the mind to discover the vastness of His world. The first step to understanding stewardship is to grab hold of the idea that everything belongs to God. We will have a chance to look at this truth further in The Last Word part of the lesson.

THEN, move on to the next passage. Read or have a student read Genesis 1:28-30. Tell the students that humans were the last thing that God created and He gave the first human, Adam, some specific instructions on his role in creation. If you have some students with different versions of the Bible ask them to look at the words used in verse 28 to describe the relationship man was to have in creation. Ask:

- **Call out some of the words your Bibles use.**
 - Answers should include words like subdue it, reign over it, govern it, have dominion over it, etc.

NEXT, read or have a student read Genesis 2:15 and ask if anyone sees a similarity with the Genesis 1:28-30 passage. (God gives man the Garden of Eden to tend it and watch over it.) Bring the two passages together by pointing out the following to your students:

- **In the book of Genesis, the role of humankind is clearly defined by God. He wanted Adam to govern over and tend to His creation.**
- **These instructions from God still hold true today. He expects those of us who are His children to manage and**

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watch over His creation. The word for this is stewardship.

Take some time to help the students grasp how awesome it is to be chosen to be a steward of the things that God has created. Help them see that there is a general aspect to this calling which includes taking care of the environment but the more specific calling is to be good stewards of the things God has given to them individually.

THEN, continue by reading or having a student read Malachi 3:8-12. Give a little context to the passage by explaining that the Old Testament law required a devout Jew to give tithes and offerings to help take care of the priests and to help keep up the Temple or Worship Center. Explain that these tithes and offerings were to represent the best of their crops or livestock and the people were failing to obey the law because they were bringing the worst of their crops and the weakest and sickest animals in their livestock.

Explain that the most interesting word in this passage is the word "rob." Malachi said that failure to give a tithe or offering was robbing God. Ask:

- **What does it mean to rob someone?**
 - Answer: To take something that belongs to someone else.
- **This passage really emphasizes one of the teaching points of the lesson, and that is everything belongs to God. If we fail to see all of our resources as God's that we've been entrusted to watch over, what does Malachi say we're doing to God?**
 - Answer: Robbing Him. Ouch! We're robbing God because it is all His anyway.
- **Malachi talks about tithing, but as we make application, it's more than that. While you may not have a lot of money to tithe at this time in your lives, there are other things you have been given by God. What are some of these things?**
 - Answers may include talents, abilities, spiritual gifts, time, and energy.

Say:

- **Let's face it: it's not a fun concept at all to think about robbing God. It sounds so harsh to our ears! But just as people rob God by not giving a portion of their money to God, you can rob God by not giving Him things like a portion of summer break for a mission trip, a musical ability for worship, or a special connection with children for a Vacation Bible School. No matter if it is money or something else God has given us when we fail to give God our first and best we rob Him of what is rightly His.**

Have students share any negative feelings they may have after reading this verse. It seriously is really convicting . . . which isn't a bad thing at all. Just make sure students are grasping the nuances of the concept. Be sure to close the Malachi passage discussion by pointing out that God promised that those who are good stewards of His things will be blessed. Just like a person who is found to be a trusted employee is given more responsibilities at work, God will bless those who are good stewards with even more because He knows that person will continue to give back to Him over and over again.

FINALLY, close by allowing your students time to reflect on what they have learned about stewardship in today's lesson.

- **A good steward realizes that everything belongs to God. There is nothing we have or ever will have that is not 100% belonging to God.**
- **In His gracious mercy and love, God chose to make us stewards over what He created.**



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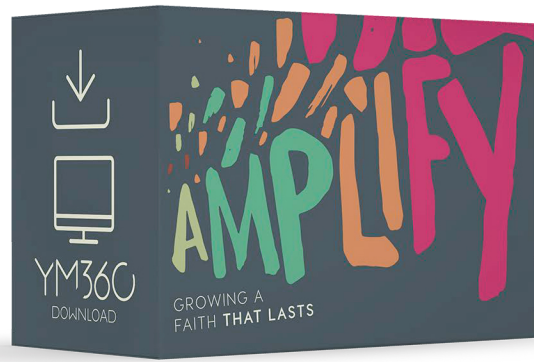
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We hope you have enjoyed this sample of this **Amplify: Growing a Faith That Lasts** study. Each **Amplify** lesson has a Leader Guide in PDF and DOC format that you can adjust to fit the needs of your group.

Do you have questions about this study? We're here to help! Contact our world-class Customer Care team at (888) 969-6360, email us at customercare@ym360.com, or Live Chat us through our website.



THE HOLY SPIRIT
WORSHIP
GOD'S WORD
OBEDIENCE
GOD'S MERCY
EVANGELISM
GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY
SUFFERING
GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS
HOLINESS
SPIRITUAL GIFTS
SERVICE
HUMILITY
KNOWING GOD
PRAYER
STEWARDSHIP
THE UNCHANGING GOD



This study is one of the 3-lesson studies in the Amplify curriculum.

Amplify is a 52-lesson youth ministry Bible study curriculum that will help your students lay the foundation of a lasting relationship with God through a study of the core concepts of their faith.

Included in each Amplify 3-lesson study:

- 3 Bible study lessons
- Bible background and Teacher Prep Videos
- Weekly student devotions
- Weekly parent pages
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