

# Stewardship

## The Christian Call to Serve Generously by Using our Time, Talents, and Treasure

**OPENING PRAYER** – please pray together

*There are different gifts but the same Spirit; there are different ministries but the same Lord; there are different works but the same God who accomplishes all of them in everyone. To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one the Spirit gives wisdom in discourse, to another the power to express knowledge. Through the Spirit one receives faith; by the same Spirit another is given the gift of healing, and still another miraculous powers. Prophecy is given to one; to another the power to distinguish one spirit from another. One receives the gift of tongues, another that of interpreting the tongues. But it is one and the same Spirit who produces all these gifts, distributing them to each as the Spirit wills.*

I Corinthians 2:14-17

### INTRODUCTION

Everything we have is God's gift to us. In God's majestic plan, each of us has been given unique, special, and meaningful gifts. Sometimes these **gifts** are referred to as **talents, skills, abilities** or **characteristics**. Here we will simply call them **gifts**.

Being a good STEWARD means being generous in using our gifts in service to God by helping one another and taking care of what God has created.

You will be taking time during this session to look at some of the special gifts God has given you. You will then be asked to consider how you use your unique gifts in service to others as Jesus has directed us in the Gospels.



## TO BE A GOOD AND GENEROUS STEWARD...

**First**, we need to discover what our special gifts are, and we must accept them as God's gifts to us.

Even the famous Moses had trouble accepting his call by God to serve others. You probably remember that God asked Moses to confront the leader of Egypt and demand that he set free the Jews who were being held as slaves. But Moses was scared. He gave God all kinds of excuses as to why he couldn't do it. Moses told God he couldn't talk, he wasn't very smart, and that other people were better qualified. Finally, Moses just said, "NO!"

Moses' problem was that he kept focusing on all of his shortcomings and it immobilized him. But, God's response to Moses was simple and direct. God said, in effect, "You're right Moses. You do have shortcomings, but they don't matter. I made you exactly the way I want you to be. And I gave you all of the abilities you need. SO, go Moses, do what I ask of you and remember that I will be with you at all times."

**???** *Together, think about and discuss other Biblical leaders (ex Jonah) who, initially, were not willing servants of God.*

All of us have plenty of excuses for not doing what God wants us to do. We don't have the talent, we have never done THAT before, our friends won't approve, it's too hard, we're not smart enough, talented enough, we lack self-discipline, we can't talk in front of others, ect, ect, ect.

**???** *Think of a time when you hesitated and made an excuse not to do something because you felt you didn't have enough ability to do it.*

***In the end, did you force yourself to do that which you were hesitant to do?***

**???** *Why or why didn't you do it?*

**???** *If you did do the action, were you glad that you did it?*

The media bombards us with ideas that we are not good enough. We need to buy something more to improve us. If we keep listening to the voice of the material world, we will always have excuses not to use the gifts God has created in us because we feel we're not good enough. The voice of God within us tells us the TRUTH about who we are. It is GOD'S voice we must listen to about what our gifts are and how we are to use them. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers us and helps us to share our gifts with others.

## TAKING A CLOSE LOOK AT MY GIFTS

What are some of your personal, unique and special gifts that God instilled in you when the Lord created you?

Together, take a look through the list of personal God-given gifts listed below. This is only a sampling of an infinite list.

1. Candidate, go through and circle the gifts you possess.
2. On the blank at the bottom of the list, add other gifts you have.
3. Allow your Faith Partner to see your circled list

\*Faith Partner- please underline any gifts you see in your candidate that they have not circled, or add to the list at the bottom.

Faith in God	love for God	Love for self	Hope in God
Temperance	prudence	justice	fortitude
Good conversationalist	likes children	light-hearted	care for others
Positive attitude	strong minded	self-control	leader
Generous with possessions	imaginative	good writer	singer
Follows-through on projects	musician	outgoing	patient
Good listener	confident	dependable	sensitive
Assertive	good student	good athlete	creative
Pray for others often	kind to siblings	explains well	courageous
Looks out for underdog	friendly	good speaker	actor/actress
Can lift people's spirits	giver	insightful	understanding
care about the environment	low-key	wise	visit elderly
Compassionate	hard worker	direct	team player
Concern for social justice	fair-minded	comedian	unselfish
Thoughtful of others	organizer	individualistic	trustworthy

OTHERS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## TO BE STEWARDS AS JESUS WAS...



In the book of James, Chapter 2, verses 14-17 we read:

*What good is it, if a person claims to have faith, but has no deeds? Can such faith save that person? Suppose a person is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to that person, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed, but does nothing about the physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."*

1. Share with your partner some examples of when you have used some of the gifts you have circled. (*This is no time to be humble – be proud of your gifts & how you use them*).
2. Now discuss with your partner other ways you feel you would like to use your gifts, and make a commitment to yourself to find ways to share your time, talent and treasure with the Church and community.

**God wants you to use the gifts He has created in you to serve others!**

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### **JESUS SETS THE EXAMPLE FOR HOW WE ARE TO LIVE...**

Are there any gifts listed on the previous page that you possess but have not used? Think about this as you read the following passages from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew:



Luke 6: 46 – 49 (House built on the rock)

Matthew 25: 31-46 (doing for the least of Mine)

Jesus was the perfect example of the good steward. He used every gift, even His very life, to praise and serve God, the Father. Jesus calls us to imitate Him by the words and examples we find throughout the four Gospels. Take time in your daily life to read about how Jesus used His gifts in the Gospels. You may find that you have some of the same gifts as Jesus, but you have not yet put them to use, or have not yet had the opportunity to do so. Be open to using your God-given gifts as often as you can. As Christians, we are called by God to serve others, not sit on our 'wealth of riches.'

## CLOSING PRAYER

### VICENTIAN MISSION PRAYER

Divine Savior, transform me into Yourself.

May my hands be Your hands.

May my tongue be your tongue.

Grant that every faculty of my body  
may serve only to glorify You.

Above all, transform my soul and all its powers,  
that my memory, my will and my affections,  
may be the memory, the will and the affections of You.

I pray You to destroy in me, all that is not of You.

Grant that I may live only in You, by You, and for You.

And that I may truly say with St. Paul,  
“I live now, no I, but Christ lives in me.”

Amen.

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NEXT MEETING DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE \_\_\_\_\_ WHO WILL CALL TO REMIND \_\_\_\_\_

