

Teaching the Stewardship Way of Life

Stewardship Curriculum Guide Grades K-8



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Concepts in Stewardship

"The Christian Steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."

(USCCB (Pastoral Letter: "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response)

- ◆ Through baptism all are called to be disciples. Being a follower of Jesus Christ leads naturally to the practice of stewardship.
- Stewardship is our response to the call to discipleship.
- ◆ Stewardship begins with the premise that everything we have is a gift from God: our lives, intellect, sensibilities, abilities, potential for grow, technology, opportunities in every moment of time, every single blessing of the earth.
- ♦ Stewardship is recognizing that all is gift. It is through the realization of all our blessings that we develop a grateful heart.
- ♦ Stewardship is tending and caring for all of God's gifts. Everything belongs to God; we are only the caretakers of God's creation.
- Stewardship is the sharing of our gifts with others.
- ♦ Stewardship is nurturing and developing our God given gifts.
- ◆ Stewardship is sharing our Time, Talent, and Treasure and it is so much, much more; it is a total **Way of Life.**
- Stewardship is not easy. It's the work of a lifetime. It's a vocation.
- ♦ Stewardship involves a lifelong process of study, reflection, prayer and action.
- ◆ Mature disciples make a conscious decision to follow Jesus, no matter what the cost.
- Stewardship is fundamentally the work of the Spirit in our lives.
- Each person is responsible and accountable for the gifts entrusted to him or her.

Prayer

The importance of prayer in stewardship education cannot be over stressed. It is good to start each lesson with some form of the stewardship prayer.

Stewardship

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded by the Psalmist that Yours is "the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it."

We know that it is from Your hand that we have received all that we have and are and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that You call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives, we pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.

(OR)

Almighty Father, we thank You
For all the gifts You have given to us:
Our lives; our loved ones;
All that we have and all that we are.
Most of all, we thank You for Jesus,
Your Son and our Redeemer,
Who came among us
To show us the way to eternal life.

Jesus was the perfect Steward of Your gifts, Showing us that complete trust in You Is necessary, and that giving of self Is a most important part of following Him.

May the offerings of our time, our talents,
And our material resources be made
In the same spirit of sacrifice
That Jesus taught us.
By His life and death for us.

Scripture and Sayings

- * "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." Mother Teresa
- * "What you are is God's gift to you. What you become is your gift to God." Anonymous
- * "The bread in your house belongs to the hungry. The money which you save up belongs to the poor." Basil the Great
- * "When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die." Eleanor Roosevelt
- * "In stewardship, you give off the top, not what is left over. Consider the apple. If you have some and give just what is left over...you give the apple core."
- * "The earth is the Lord's and all it holds, the world and those who live there." Psalm 24:1
- * "If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is 'thank you,' that would suffice." Meister Eckhart
- * "Stewardship is what you do after you say you believe."
- * "Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Nor is it small to God, if we have given what we could."

 St. Gregory Nazianzen
- * "Once one chooses to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option." Stewardship: A Disciple's Response, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- * "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10
- * "Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries."

 1 Corinthians 4:1

Stewardship Parables

The Gospel of Matthew	
The Hidden Treasure	Mt. 13:44
The Pearl	Mt. 13:45
The Unforgiving Servant	Mt. 18:23-35
The Workers in the Vineyard	Mt. 20:1-16
The Tenants in the Vineyard	Mt. 21:33-46
The Faithful Servant	Mt. 24:45-51
The Three Servants	Mt. 25:14-30
The Final Judgment	Mt. 25:31-46
The Gospel of Mark	
The Tenants in the Vineyard	Mk. 12:1-12
Gospel of Luke	T1 = 44 40
The Two Debtors	Lk. 7:41-43
The Good Samaritan	Lk. 10:29-37
The Friend at Midnight	Lk. 11:5-8
The Rich Fool	Lk. 12:16-21
The Unfaithful Servant	Lk. 12:42-48
The Unfruitful Fig Tree	Lk. 13:6-9
The Tower Builder	Lk. 14:28-30
The King's Campaign	Lk. 14:31-33
The Lost Sheep	Lk. 15:3-7
The Lost Coin	Lk. 15:8-10
The Lost Son	Lk. 15:11-32
The Shrewd Manager	Lk. 16:1-9
The Rich Man and Lazarus	Lk. 16:19-31
The Pharisee and the Tax Collector	Lk. 18:9-14
The Gold Coins	Lk. 19:12-27
The Tenants in the Vineyard	Lk. 20:9-19



Stewardship Curriculum Guide Grades K-8.

A Christian Steward is one
Who receives God's gifts gratefully,
Cherishes and tends them in a
Responsible and accountable manner,
Shares them in justice and love with others,
And returns them with increase to the Lord.

Background Reading

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

[the U. S. Bishops' 1993 Pastoral Letter on Stewardship]

To Be A Christian Steward

[A Summary of the U.S. Bishops' 1993 Pastoral Letter on Stewardship]

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Lesson One Kindergarten

Theme: Discipleship

Objective: To understand that each one of us is called to follow Jesus.

To define the role of a disciple.

Materials: Copy one set of Footprints of Jesus for each student.

<u>Lesson</u>: The students will play the traditional game, "Follower the Leader."

The first leader will be the tallest person. The second leader...the one wearing red, the third...with glasses, etc. The teacher could be the

first leader when necessary.

After playing "Follow the Leader," ask these questions:

* What was the job of the leader?

* What were the followers supposed to do?

* Did the leaders keep us busy?

* Who might be some of the leaders in our lives?

* Who is our number one leader in all that we think, say and do? Jesus is calling each one of us to follow him. What do you think are

some of the ways that you could follow Jesus?

Activity: Pass out footprints of Jesus to each student. Have students fill in their

name on their footprints page. Have each student place their footprints on the floor leading to a large candle (prayer corner). Have students follow Jesus' footprints to the prayer corner. Conclude with prayer. Invite students to take their footsteps home as a reminder that they are

disciples of Jesus.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help us to follow your Son, Jesus.
Show us how to walk in your footsteps every day
by being good disciples.

Amen.

Footprints of Jesus





I will follow Jesus

Name:

Lesson Two Kindergarten

Theme: Stewardship

Objective: To become aware that God made all things and that everything in the

world is his. We are to be the caretakers.

Materials: A Children's Bible, one copy of God Created Everything for each

student, crayons

<u>Lesson</u>: Read Genesis, the *story of creation* from your children's Bible.

The catechist may ask these questions:

* Why do you think that God created all these things for us?

* What does God want us to do with all the things he made for us?

* God made everything. Name some of the things that God made for you?

Talk about how everything we have belongs to God. We should take care of all we have because it is his. Remind students that this includes family, friends, pets, toys, their body, food, everything.

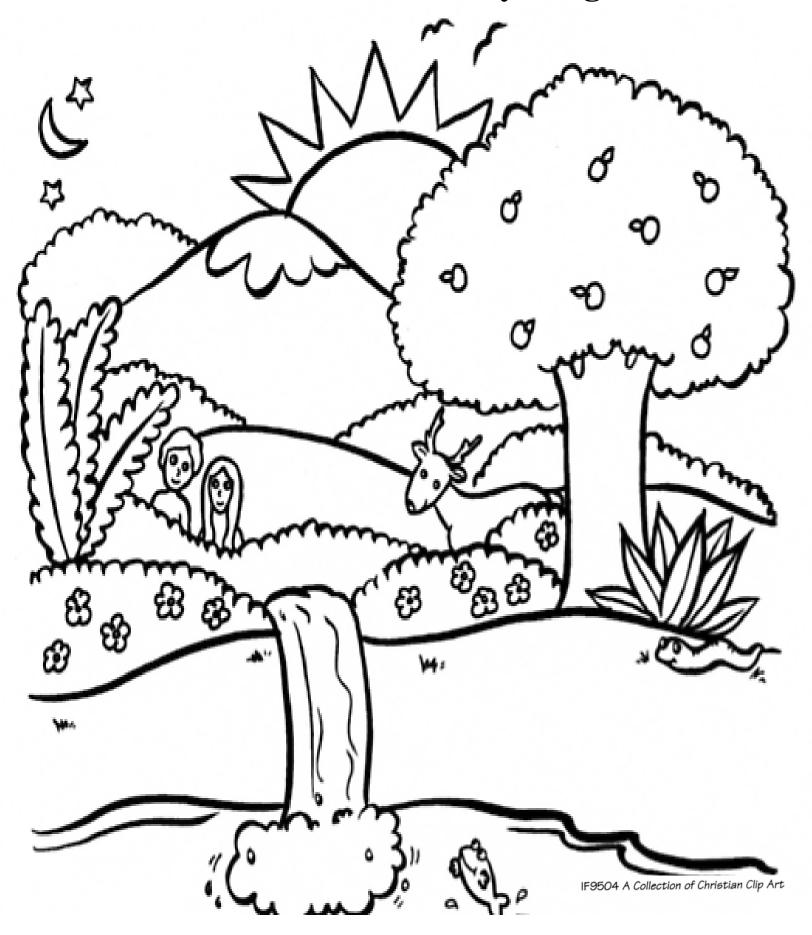
Activity: Have students color the creation page and take it home to remind

them that God created everything for us to take care of for him.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for everything we have.
We know that you are the creator of everything in the world.
Help us to always take care of all that you have given to us.
Help us to be good stewards.
Amen.

God Created Everything



Lesson Three Kindergarten

Theme: Attitude of Gratitude

Objective: To help the student discover their own gifts.

To understand and be thankful for all of God's gifts.

Materials: Bible, copy of All is Gift for each child, pencils, crayons,

<u>Lesson</u>: Read Romans 12:6 "...we have gifts that differ according to the

grace that God has given to us.'

Everything around us, every part of our lives, is a gift from God. God wants us to enjoy the gifts he gave us. God gives each person their own special gifts. Each person's gifts are different from the gifts of

others. No one has all the gifts.

When someone gives us a gift, the first thing we can do to respond is to show gratitude. We say "thank you." We want to tell God, "Thank

You" for all the gifts he gives us every day.

Activity: Have students draw a picture of their favorite gift from God and

write their name on the gift tag. They may color the picture, bow and tag. Have students take their picture of their gifts home to remind them of all the gifts God has given to them and to remember to say

thank you to God.

Prayer:

Loving Father, thank you for all the gifts you give us.

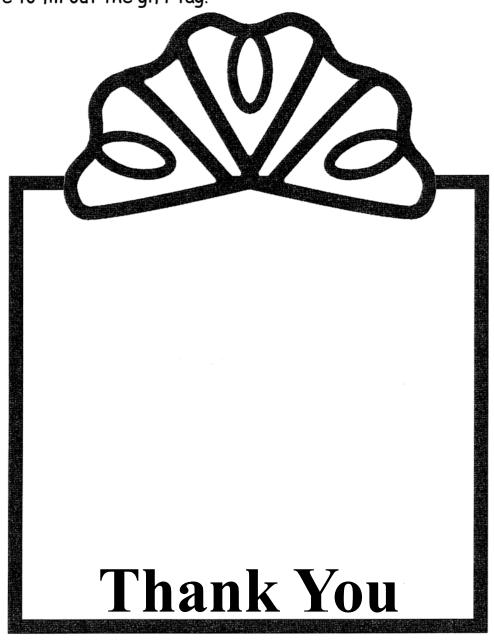
Help us to be a good stewards

every day and in every way.

Amen.

All is Gift

Gifts from God fill our lives. They are everywhere. Fill the package below with pictures of a few of God's gifts in your life. It represents a present from God especially to you. Be sure to fill out the gift tag!



Cut out the tag and present.

Attach the tag to the present.

Place this somewhere that will serve as a daily reminder of God's gifts to you.

To	
From	

Lesson Four Kindergarten

Theme: Caring and Sharing

Objective: To understand that everything we have is a gift from God

To understand that as good stewards we are to take care of the gifts

God gives us.

To understand that God wants us to share our gifts with others out of

love.

Materials: The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein, paper, pencil, crayon, copy of

Good Steward Award for each student, Children's bible.

Lesson: Read *The Giving Tree*. Talk about all the ways the tree gave to the

boy just because he loved him. Think of some ways we give our love

to others.

(OR) **Read** John 6:1-14 and discuss how the young boy helped Jesus as he

performed one of his greatest miracles. The boy gives us a lesson: no

matter how little we have there is always enough to share.

Activity: Have students draw a picture of ways that he or she can share what

they have with others. Have them color their *Good Steward Award*. Staple their *Good Steward Award* to their picture. Have students take their picture and award home to remind them that they need to find

ways to give to others everyday.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for all that you have given us.

Show us how we can use our gifts to help others.

Help us to be good stewards in your world.

Amen.

Good Steward Award



Lesson One Grade One

Theme: Discipleship

Objective: To lead the students in understanding that each one of us is chosen

and called by God.

Materials: Children's Bible, two phones (real, cell or toy), One copy of Jesus'

sandals, scissors, stapler.

<u>Lesson</u>: Ask a student to volunteer to help you out. Role-play a phone call

from God

The phone rings. The student answers, "Hello." The teacher responds, "Hello _____. This is God calling. I have called you by name (Isaiah 43:1) because I want you to be a very special member of my family. I've blessed you with certain gifts (talents) because I need you to use them to help me. I first called you at your baptism. I cleansed you of your sins and gave you special gifts that will help you to do the work that I need you to do. I did all this for your friends, too, when I called them. Are you willing to help me?"

(Let the student respond.)

"Great," answers God. "I knew that I could count on you. Grow up strong. Stay out of trouble and think of ways that **you** can help yourself and others to know and love me. Oh, by the way, _____, you need to begin right away. There can be no delay.

Read: Matthew 4:18-20

Jesus calling the apostle to follow him. Jesus is also calling you to follow him; to be his disciple.

What are some ways that you can follow Jesus?

Activity: Give each student a copy of Jesus' sandal. To be a disciple is to walk in

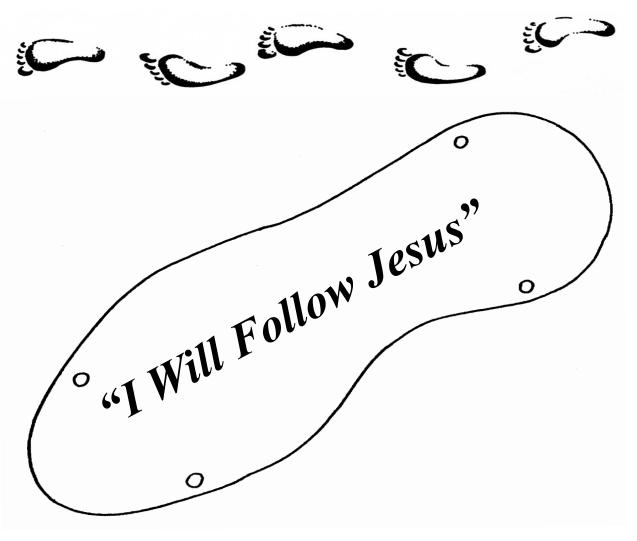
the ways of Jesus. Have students cut out the sandals—teacher will punch holes in the sandals. The students will tie the two sandals together so that the writing is on the outside. Instruct students to take it home and hang it somewhere to remind them to follow Jesus everyday.

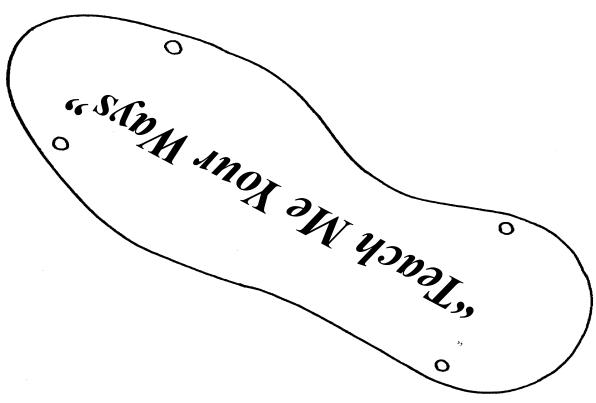
Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help us to follow and hear your call and to know what my gifts are and how you want me to use them.

I want to begin now to be a good disciple. Amen.

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Lesson Two Grade One

Theme: Stewardship

Objective: To teach students that God created everything we have, everything

belongs to God; everything is ours to take care of for God.

Materials: Children's Bible, paper, pencils, crayons, copy of *Creation* for each

student.

Lesson: Read: Genesis, the creation story, from your Children's Bible. Tell

the students that God wants us to see him as our loving Father who

has given us everything.

Take the students on a *nature walk*. Tell them to notice everything that God has given us (sun, flowers, trees, grass, birds). When you return tell them God created our good and beautiful world for everyone. God gives us all these gifts to use and enjoy. We are good

stewards when we take care of all the gifts God gives us.

Ask the children if they saw anything that was <u>not</u> good or beautiful. Point out the damage caused by people, such as paper or trash thrown on the ground or grass killed by people stepping on it. Have each

child tell some way that they can care for the world.

Activity: Nature Walk

Have them color their *Creation* picture. Have students take their picture home to remind them of all God has given to us and to remind them that they are to be good stewards and take care of all

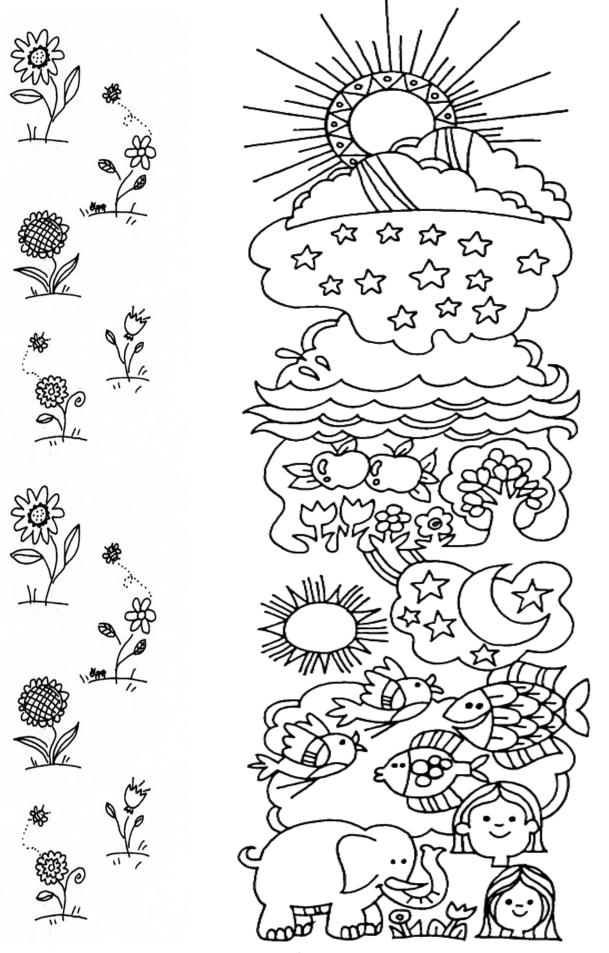
God's gifts.

Prayer:

Dear God, help us to remember that all of your creation is holy and that each day of our lives we walk on holy ground.

Help us to be good stewards and treat your gifts with love and respect.

Amen



Lesson Three Grade One

Theme: Attitude of Gratitude

Objective: To help students become aware of individual gifts.

To help students express gratitude to God for all that they have

received.

Materials: One copy of Saying "Thank You" for each student, pencils, crayons

Lesson: God gives us all kinds of gifts to enjoy in this life. Everything and

everyone in our lives is a gift from God. When we receive any gift the first thing we do is say "Thank you." We need to say thank you to God for all the good gifts he gives us. Name some of God's gifts in

your life.

Activity: Saying "Thank You" activity page. Gifts from God fill our lives.

They are everywhere. It is good for us to say thank you to God.

Prayer:

Dear God, show us what our special gifts are and how we can best use them.

Thank you for all the gifts you have given us.

Help us to be good stewards.

Amen.

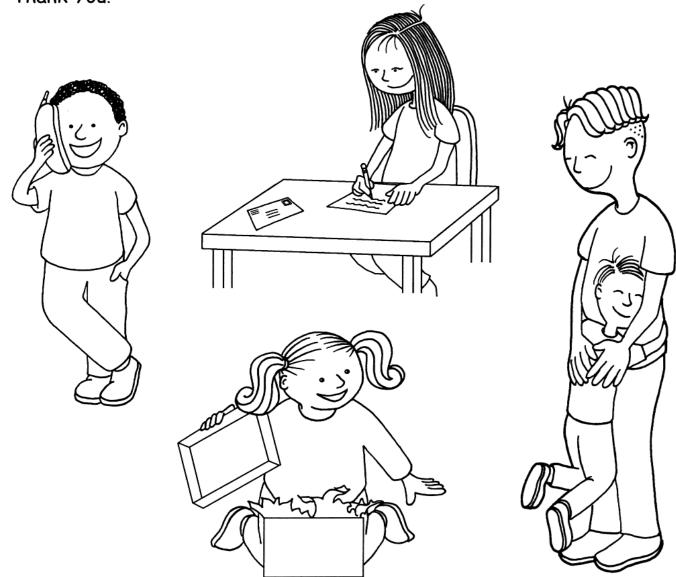
Saying "Thank You!"

Think about your favorite things. Write the one you like the most.

\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
Winoro dia this thing como tromi
Where did this thing come from?

Now think about all of the ways you express your gratitude for gifts received. Several ways are shown below. Circle the way(s) you show thanks to others.

Many of the gifts we receive come from God. How can you thank God? Copy the words above that apply or add your own ways for telling God "Thank You!"



Lesson Four Grade One

Theme: Caring and Sharing

Objective: To understand that everything we have is a gift from God.

To understand that as God's stewards we are to take **care** of our gifts.

To understand that God wants us to **share** our gifts with others.

Materials: Children's Bible, copy of *Taking Care of Our Things* for each child,

crayons, candies.

<u>Lesson</u>: We don't just take care of things "because mom or dad said so." We

take care of the gifts that God gives us because we want to show God

that we are pleased and grateful for what he has given us.

Have students do Taking Care of Our Things.

Read: John 6:1-14 The *story of the Loaves and the Fish.*

Tell the students that Jesus performed a great miracle that day and that the little boy helped in that miracle by sharing what he had. This tells us that no matter how little we have, there is always enough to share. Whenever we offer our humble gifts to God, God can work

miracles with them.

Activity: Distribute to two thirds of the class a small handful of candies. Don't

be specific about how many pieces each receives. Tell children not to touch them or eat any yet. Be sure that you "run out" of candy before everyone receives their candy. Ask each child to give back one or two pieces so that everyone might have some. Give the remaining students a small handful, also. You may have to "find" some more to make it work, but they will get the idea that they can share with those

in need and still have plenty to enjoy.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, showing us how to be as giving as the boy with the loaves and fish was.

Help us to know how much you have given to us and how easy it is to share what we have with others.

Help us become good stewards. Amen.

Taking Care of Our Things

God has blessed us with many possessions. Our response as stewards is to take care of these possessions.

Taking care of these means different things depending on the possession. The illustrations on the left show neglected possessions. Fix these problems by drawing a line to the illustration on the right that shows how to care for the possession.



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Lesson One Grade Two

Theme: Discipleship

Objective: To lead students in understanding that each one of us is chosen and

called by God.

Materials: Twelve sandals, Short Stories about the Apostles (3 pages) for each

student (different colors would be nice), scissors, and stapler.

<u>Lesson</u>: We are called, young and old, to come and follow God. Isaiah 43:10

states: (read from the Bible) "You are my witnesses, says the Lord,

my servants whom I have chosen."

When Jesus walked on the earth, he was following his Father in heaven—making known God's great love for us and how God is to

be the King of our hearts. **Read:** Matthew 4:18-20

Jesus calling some of his apostles to follow him and be his disciples.

Jesus wants each one of us to follow him and to be his disciples.

What do you think you can do to be a disciple of Jesus?

Activity: Have students cut out their twelve sandals. There is a short story for each

of the apostles on each of the sandals. When they are done, staple the sandals together to make a booklet (they may be put together in any order). Read the short stories. Have the students take their booklets home

to remind them that they too have been called by Jesus to be his

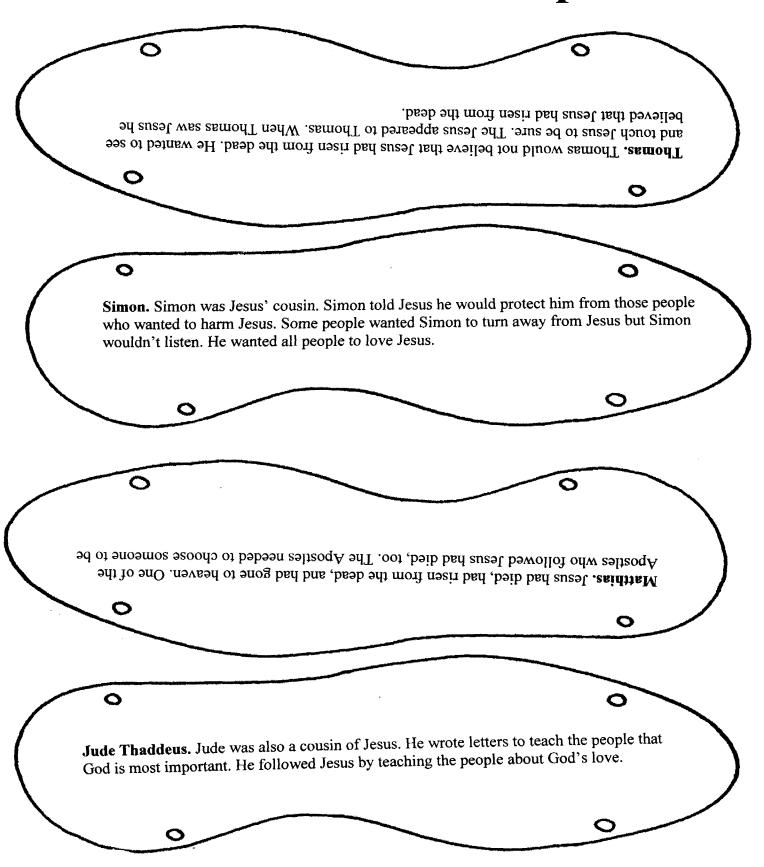
disciples.

Prayer:

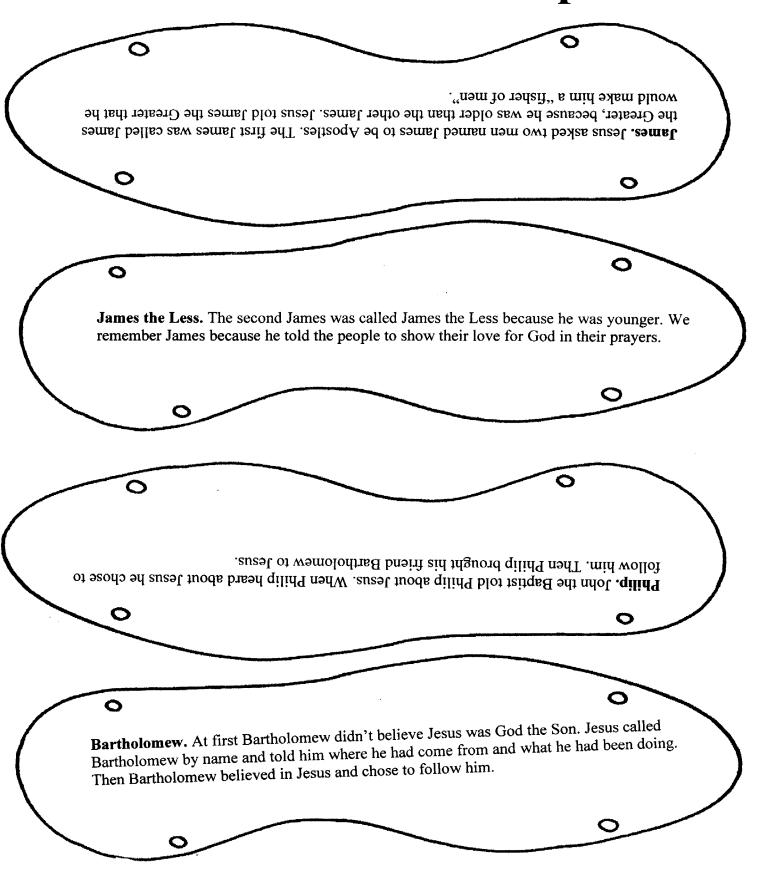
Heavenly Father, help us to follow your Son, Jesus, as the Apostles did and to bring you to others by being a good and faithful disciple.

Amen.

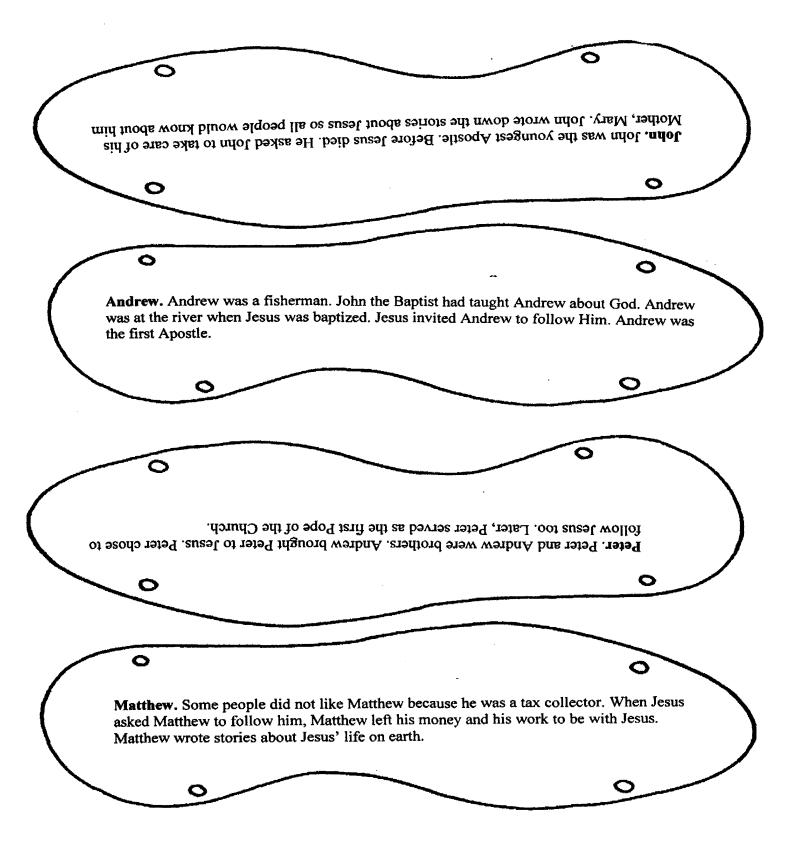
Short Stories about the Apostles



Short Stories about the Apostles



Short Stories about the Apostles



Lesson Two Grade Two

Theme: Stewardship

Objective: To help students recognize their gifts and learn how to take care of

them.

Materials: Children's bible, one copy of *I Will Do My Best To Care For...* for

each student, pencils, crayons.

<u>Lesson</u>: **Read:** Luke 12:48... "Everyone who has been given much will be

responsible for much. Much more will be expected from the one who

has been given more."

"A steward is one who takes care of something someone else owns. Because God created everything and everyone, he owns it all. He

placed us here to be stewards or caregivers of His creation. Our response to this task is that we do the best with what He has given us

and offer back the results of our labor in gratefulness" (Planting the

Seeds of Stewardship by Roselyn Smith).

Some of your responsibilities might be for your pets, younger brothers

and sisters. What are some of the things you do to take care of God's

gifts?

Activity: I Will Do My Best To Care For... Draw and color a picture of a few

of your responsibilities (those gifts from God given to you to care

for.)

Prayer:

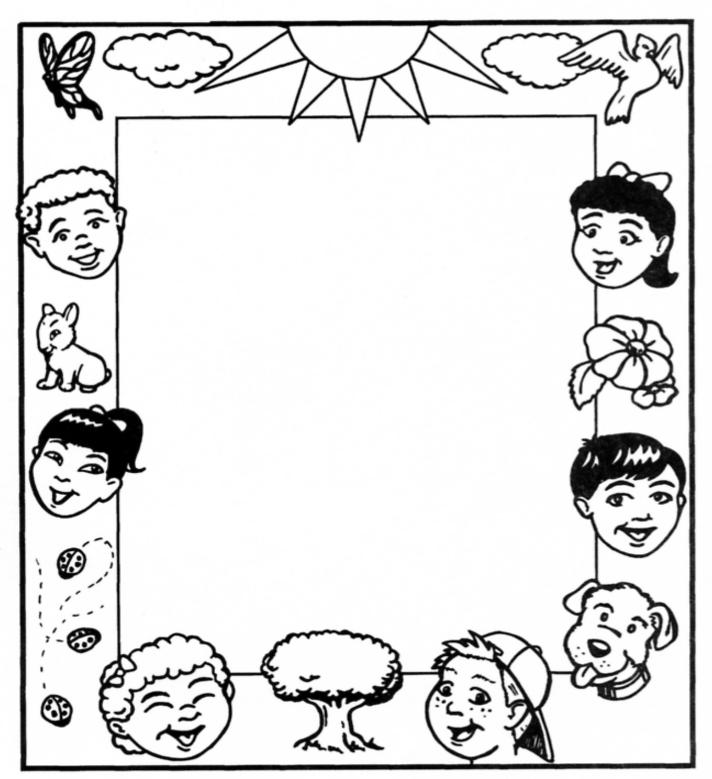
Dear God, we know that you are the creator of all things.

Help us to be good caregivers of your creation.

Show us the ways to be good stewards of all that you have given us.

Amen.

I Will Do My Best To Care For...



IF9504 A Collection of Christian Clip Ari

Lesson Three Grade Two

Theme: Attitude of Gratitude

Objective: To help students understand that everything we have is gift from our

generous God. When we have received so many gifts we need to say

"Thank you" to our God.

Materials: Bible, one copy of *Our Response as Good Stewards* for each student,

pencils, crayons.

Lesson: Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:18. "Be thankful in all circumstances. This

is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus."

Read: Psalms 92:1. "How good it is to give thanks to you, O Lord, to

sing in your honor, O Most High God.

Activity: Do activity *Our Response as Good Stewards*. When students

complete the activity, discuss saying <u>Thank you</u>, <u>caring</u> for our gifts, and <u>sharing</u> our gifts with others. Have students take their picture home to remind them to say thank you to God for all that he has given us, to remind them to take care of their gifts; and to find ways

to share their particular gifts with others every day.

Prayer:

Thank You Lord

Thank you, Lord, for this fine day, Thank you, Lord, for this fine day, Thank you, Lord, for this fine day, Right where we are.

> Alleluia, praise the Lord! Alleluia, Praise the Lord! Alleluia, praise the Lord! Right where we are.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us _	
Thank you, Lord, for giving us	
Thank you, Lord, for giving us	
Right where we are.	

(repeat verse and refrain adding your own words)

Thank You God

(Tune: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star)

Thank you God for all that grows, Thank you for the skies, rainbows, Thank you for the stars that shine, Thank you for these friends of mine, Thank you for the moon and sun, Thank you God for all you've done.

(tune: Michael Row the Boat Ashore)

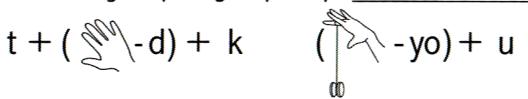
Thank you for the food we eat, Hallelujah. Thank you for the friends we meet, Hallelujah. Thank you for the birds that sing, Hallelujah. Thank you Lord for everything, Hallelujah.

Our Response as Good Stewards

Receiving a gift is fun. There are three things we need to do when we receive a gift. Decode the puzzles for the steps.

1. When someone gives you a gift, you say "

$$t + (2^{n}-d) + k$$



2. Then we must take _____ of it.



3. Finally if we can, we can ______.



Below are examples of children with gifts. Draw a line from the child to the word that describes what is happening.

Thanking

Caring for)

Sharing





Lesson Four Grade Two

Theme: Caring and Sharing

Objective: To help students understand what gifts (talents) God has blessed each

with and what their responsibility is to use them.

Materials: Bible, one copy of *Sharing our Talents with Others*, pencils,

crayons, scissors, single hole punch, one 8 inch yarn for each child.

Lesson: Read: Matthew 5:15

Our gifts (talents) are those special qualities God has given to each of us. Sometimes our talents are physical abilities like athletic or musical skills but many times our gifts include things we'll never receive a trophy for but are just as valuable. These might include our ability to get along with others, to work hard in school, or to be a peacemaker in our homes. Sharing our gifts is really a way to share the light of Christ with others. When we share our gifts with others

we are showing them God's love to others.

Activity: Sharing Our Talents with Others. Notice how the picture frame

resembles a lantern. You may want to punch a hole for hanging the

lantern.

Prayer: This Little light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

No one's going to blow it out,
I'm going to let it shine.
No one's going to blow it out,
I'm going to let it shine.
No one's going to blow it out,
I'm going to let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

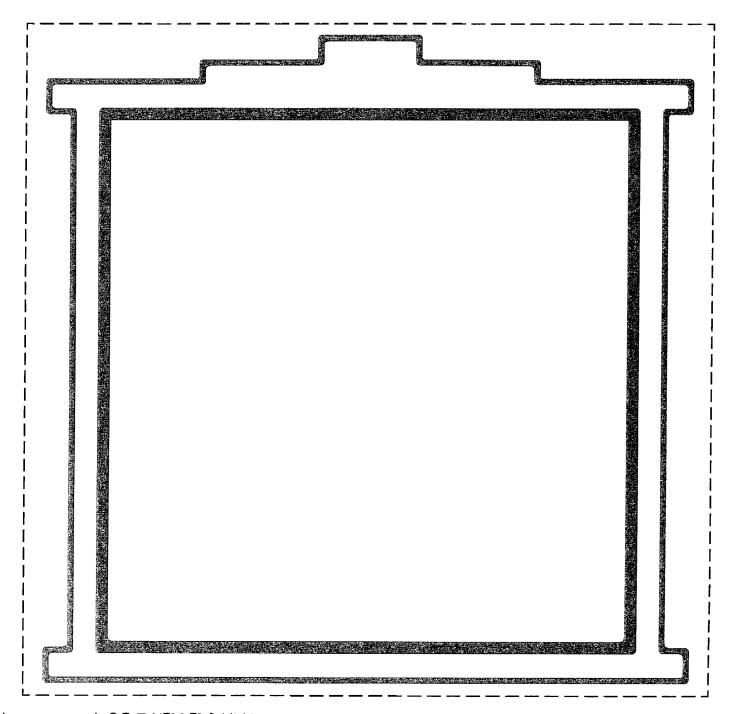
Hide it under a bushel—NO!
I'm going to let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel—NO!
I'm going to let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel—NO!
I'm going to let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All around the whole wide world,
I'm going to let it shine.
All around the whole wide world,
I'm going to let it shine.
All around the whole wide world,
I'm going to let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Sharing Our Talents with Others

Jesus tells us to let our light shine bright. One way to do this is to use and share our talents with others. What talent do you have that you can share with others? What does sharing this talent with others look like?

Draw it in the frame below. Decorate the frame and then cut it out. Place the frame in a place where you will see it often. Let it be a reminder to share your talent with others. Maybe give it to someone who will help you remember to share that talent.



Lesson One Grade Three

Discipleship Theme:

To help student to understand that each one of us is called to follow **Objective:**

Jesus. The word for following Jesus is discipleship.

Materials: A Children's Bible, paper dolls, fish netting, one 8 inch strip of yarn

for each student, one 6x6 inch piece of netting, a single hole punch,

and scissors

We are called, young and old, to come and follow God. When Jesus Lesson:

walked on the earth, he was following his Father in heaven, making known God's great love for us and how God is to be King of our hearts. Jesus wants us to follow him, be his disciples, and bring others

to God.

Listen now to the following short stories of Jesus calling or asking someone to follow him. **Read:** Mt. 4:18-22 and/or Lk. 5:1-11.

- * Can you remember some of the people Jesus invited or called to follow him? (Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John)
- * They were catching fish, but who did Jesus say they would catch from now on? (men)
- * What did Jesus want them to do? (follow him)
- * How do you think these friends of Jesus "caught people"?
- * Are we too young to follow Jesus? Can we become too old to follow Jesus? How can we (at our age) be followers of Jesus?

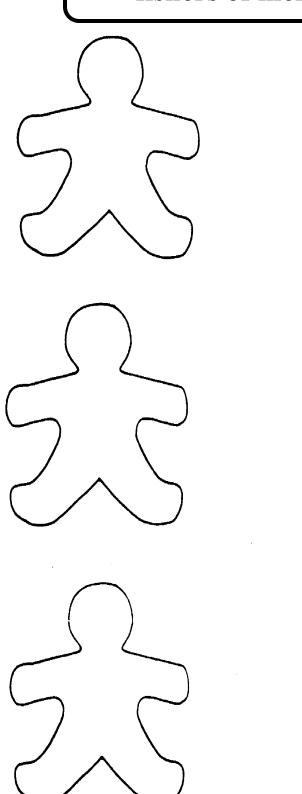
Give each child a sheet of *paper dolls* copied on construction paper, **Activity:**

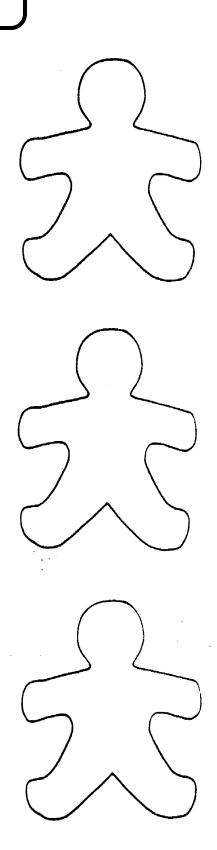
a 6x6 piece of netting, and an 8 inch piece of yarn. Have students cut out paper dolls and tag. Have them place the paper dolls in the center of the netting and tie it with yarn, string the yarn through the tag in which you have punched a hole. Have the students take their project home to remind them that Jesus calls us to follow him and to bring others to know God.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to follow your Son, Jesus,

as the apostles did and to bring you to others. Amen.

"I will make you fishers of men."





Lesson Two Grade Three

Theme: Stewardship

Objective: To help students understand that as disciples of Jesus we are called

to be good stewards of all the gifts God has given us.

Materials: Bible (Children's), copy of *Being a Good Steward* for each student,

pencils, crayons.

<u>Lesson</u>: Everything around us, every part of our lives, is a gift from God. We

don't own any of these, but we are called to be stewards of the gifts God gives us. A steward is someone who manages the property, finances or affairs of another. We are given the care of and the

responsibility for the things God has given us.

Listen carefully to what the wise and not-so-wise steward does with

these gifts.

Read: Matthew 25:14-30 The Parable of the Three Servants

Possible discussion questions:

What did God give to the three servants?

What do you think that God wanted them to do with the talents?

Why was God displeased with the third servant?

What lesson is God trying to teach us in this story?

How could the last servant have put his gifts to better use?

What are some gifts that God has given you? (Encourage children to think broadly. Work to move beyond the items one immediately thinks about as a gift to include more intangible things such as

abilities, relationships, resources, the body, time, etc.)

How can we be good stewards of the gifts God gives to us?

Activity: Have the students **role play** the parable of the three servants. They

may come up with choices the third servant could have made instead

of what he chose to do.

Invite students to do the maze, *Being A Good Steward*. Have students take home their maze to remind them of what they can do as good

stewards of God's gifts.

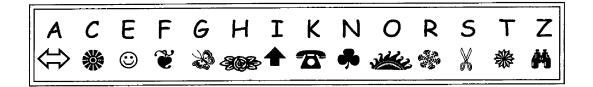
<u>Prayer</u>: Dear God, help us to know what our gifts are

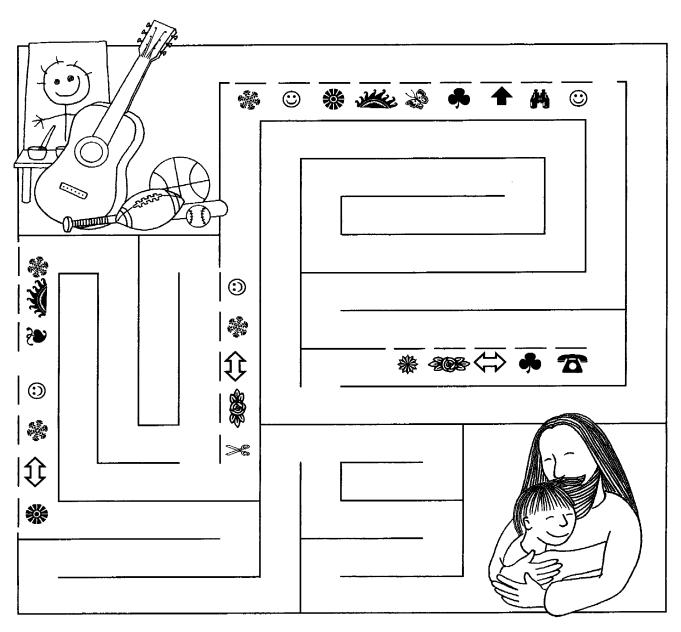
and how you want us to use them.

We want to be good stewards of everything you give to us. Amen.

Being a Good Steward

The gifts from God are ours only to care for in this life. We do not own them. Caring for God's gifts is called stewardship. Being a steward is fun and rewarding. Travel the maze and fill in the blanks to see what we can do as stewards of God's gifts.





Lesson Three Grade Three

Theme: Attitude of Gratitude

Objective: To help students understand that using their God-given gifts for

others is a way of saying "Thank you" to God.

Materials: One copy of Some Ways I can use my God-given Gifts to thank

God...for each student.

<u>Lesson</u>: Talents are the gifts God gives us to do things. People's talents make

our world wonderful. Some people are artists, Some are writers. Some are athletes. Some are doctors. Some are mechanics. Some can build houses and buildings. Others decorate, work in or clean the

buildings. The beauty of talents is that we have many gifts all at the

same time.

What are some of your favorite gifts (talents)?

When someone gives you something how do you respond?

God has given you all sorts of special gifts and talents. How can you

respond to God?

How can you use your God-given gifts for others to say "Thank you"

to God.

Activity: Hand out Some Ways I can use my God-given Gifts to thank God.

Discuss the list with the students and have them take it home to remind them of the ways they can show gratitude to God for all that

he has given them.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the many gifts you have given to us. Help us to recognize and use our gifts, our talents to serve you.

Show us ways to be good stewards.

Amen.

Some Ways I can use my God-given Gifts to Thank God

- * I made my Mother breakfast.
- * I wrote Dad a love note.
- * I apologized to my friend and neighbor.
- * I made Grandma pictures
- * I put some money in the church collection.
- * I cleaned my room without being asked.
- * I helped my Mon with my baby sister.
- * I went to Church and said my prayers.
- * I served as an altar server.
- * I helped Dad wash the car.
- * I practiced my piano lessons.
- * I gave Dad a gift just because
- * I played with someone who was lonely.
- * I helped someone who was hurt on the playground.
- * I helped my teacher at CCD class.
- * I helped my friend when he was being chased.
- * I cheered up a person who was sad.
- * I let Mom and Dad sleep.
- * I helped with our 2 dogs.
- * I tried to control my temper.
- * I was nice to my brother.
- * I dressed myself and picked up toys.
- * I read a book to my baby brother.
- * I prayed every morning.
- * I folded clothes.
- * I played with my baby brother.

- * I helped feed the baby.
- * I held the door for Dad.
- * I helped Grandma dig her garden.
- * I set the table and I did it by myself.
- * I fed the cats.
- * I helped my sister get up.
- * I did my homework.
- * I walked the dog.
- * I vacuumed.
- * I paid attention in school.
- * I helped with the dishes.
- * I fed the fish.
- * I thanked God for all my gifts.
- * I did my chores.
- * I got dressed without being told.
- * I practiced my guitar.
- * I said the rosary with Grandma.
- * I listened to my friend who was sad.
- * I helped with the laundry.
- * I cleaned up the outdoor toys.
- * I spent time with my friends.
- * I helped someone with their homework.
- * I went with Mom to visit Grandpa.
- * I helped Mom make dinner.
- * I shared my toys with my sister.
- * I talked to a new kid in school.
- * I took my money envelope to church.

Lesson Four Grade Three

Theme: Caring and Sharing

Objective: To encourage students to do what they can to care for and share the

gifts that God has given them.

Materials: Bible, one copy of *Caring for Our Talents* for each child, pencils,

crayons.

Lesson: Read: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 Gifts from the Holy Spirit.

Everyone is given special gifts or talents. No one has all the gifts. We all have different gifts. These talents are not just athletic or musical abilities. We might be a good listener, a thoughtful son or daughter, or a hard worker. Whatever gifts or talents we have, God expects us to develop the gifts he gives us and to show our gratitude by sharing

them with others.

Name one talent you have received from God.

How can you use this gift for others?

Activity: Caring for Our Talents. When students have finished the activity

discuss the meanings of the exercise and practical ways that they can

develop their gifts by <u>reading</u>, <u>exploring</u>, <u>praying</u>, <u>lessons</u>, and <u>practicing</u>. They may color the picture and take it home to remind them of some of the things they need to do to nurture their gifts and

talents.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for blessing each of us with special talents. Help us to recognize and develop these gifts to better serve you and your kingdom.

Amen.

Caring for Our Talents

Plants must have food, water and sunlight to grow. If one of these is absent, the plant will not grow and could even die. Caring for our talents is a lot like feeding and watering a plant. How do you help your talents to grow? Write one of your talents in the center of the flower below. Use the letter key below to write the words in the rain, soil and sun for ways we help our talents grow. 0 0 0

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Lesson One Grade Four

Theme: Discipleship

Objective: To help students recognize that they are each chosen and called by

baptism to follow Jesus.

Materials: Youth Bible, one copy of Renewal of Baptismal Promises, candle for

each student, matches, Christ candle, bowl of water, Rite of Baptism.

<u>Lesson</u>: Discipleship begins with vocation, the call to follow Jesus and

imitate his way of life everyday in everyway. It's Jesus choosing us and saying, "Come, follow me." We see in the bible where Jesus is

choosing the twelve disciples.

Read: John 1:35-50.

After reading the scripture, lead a discussion about being chosen by God.

* If you were one of the characters in the story, who would you be?

- * How would you tell the story through their eyes?
- * How would you feel being chosen by Jesus?
- * Why would you follow him?
- * Is there someone in your life like Andrew or Philip, who led you to Jesus?
- * Who is it?
- * How were you called to be Jesus' follower?
- * What does it mean to you to be chosen by Jesus by name?

Lead the students from the call as seen in the scripture reflection to an understanding of their own baptismal call.

Activity: Renewal of Baptismal Promises. Have students take the copy of their

baptismal vows home to remind them that God has called and chosen

each one of them to be his disciples.

Prayer:

Loving Jesus,
Help me to follow you no matter the cost.
Teach me to be your disciple.
Amen.

I Have Called You, You Are Mine

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Gather students around the water and Christ candle. Each student is asked to bless themselves with the water. The student's candles (parish candles left from last year Holy Week) are lit from the Christ candle and remain lit while repeating their baptismal vows.

Celebrant:

Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children? *Student:*

I do.

Celebrant:

Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?

Student:

I do.

Celebrant:

Do you reject Satan, and all his works, and all his empty promises?

Student:

I do.

Celebrant:

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth? *Student:*

I do.

Celebrant:

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Student:

I do.

Celebrant:

Peace be with you.

Student:

And also with you.



Lesson Two Grade Four

Theme: Stewardship

Objective: To understand that God is the creator of all that we have and we are

the stewards of his creation.

Materials: Bible, one copy for each student of All is Gift, pencil, crayon or

colored markers.

Lesson: Everything around us, every part of our lives, is a gift from God. We

don't own any of these, but you have been called to be stewards of the gifts God has given us. A steward is someone who manages the property, finances or affairs of another. We are called to manage the

gifts God gives us.

Read: Matthew 25: 14-30 or Luke 16:1-13

Discuss: What are the talents that God has put you in charge of? Help students broaden their thinking. Suggest things like their body, family, pets, sisters, brothers, or things like; bed, clothes, food, the ability to listen attentively to others, or the amount of time that God has gifted each one with. How can they be good stewards of each of the things that they name? Pray to God every day that you will learn

how God wants you to use your own special gifts.

Activity: Have students do *All is Gift*. Have students take their activity home

to remind them of all the gifts that God has given to each one of

them. How can they be good stewards of their gifts?

Prayer:

Loving Father,

Thank you for all that you have given to each of us.

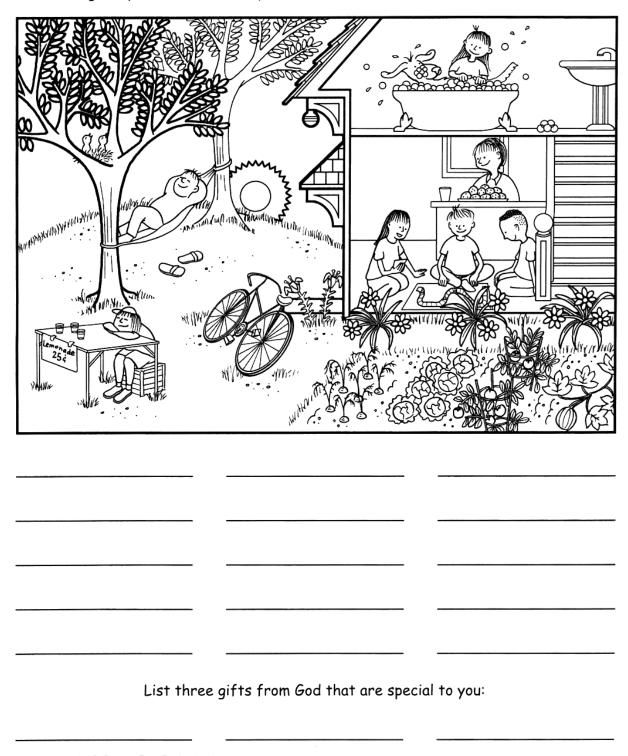
Help us to recognize that all is gift.

Help us to become good stewards every day.

Amen.

All is Gift

God gives us all gifts to enjoy in this life. Everything and everyone in our lives is a gift from God. Sometimes we miss these gifts because we do not notice them. Sharpen your focus and write down all of the gifts you can find in the picture.



Lesson Three Grade Four

Theme: Attitude of Gratitude

Objective: To help students understand that our response to all that God has

given us is to develop an attitude of gratitude.

Materials: Copy of Our Response as Christians for each student, pencils,

Lesson: God gives everyone special talents or gifts. What are some special

talents that God has given to you? Stewardship is a way of

"thanking" God for all the wonderful things he has given us. What are some ways that you can use those gifts around the house, in school, on the playground and in the neighborhood and in the parish. Taking care of our special gifts is one way to show our gratitude to God for them. Another way to thanks to God is to share your gifts with others. Maybe you and your family could tidy up the books in

the pews after mass.

Activity: Have students do *Our Response as Christians* and take their sheet

home as a reminder to work on an "attitude of gratitude" every day.

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for everything you have given to each of us.

Help me to always be grateful

and to share what we have

as we become good stewards in your world.

Amen.

Our Response as Christians

When someone gives us a gift, there are three things we can do to respond fully. The first is to show gratitude. The second is to care for the gift. Third, we can share it with others.

Choose a gift you were recently given. Illustrate it in the box below, then write your response on the lines provided.

1. How did I gratefully receive my	gift?
2. How am I caring for it?	
	3. How am I sharing it
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Lesson Four Grade Four

Theme: Caring and Sharing

Objective: To help students to recognize and appreciate all the gifts God has

given them. Our thankfulness naturally leads us to care for and share

our gifts with others.

Materials: Stone Soup Marcia Brown, (New York: Aladdin Books 1989, Bible.

A small unopened snack bag (pretzels, peanuts, or anything that sounds good to you) for half of the students in your class), large bowl, paper cups, Bible, copy of *Sharing Our Talents with Others* for

each student, pencils.

Lesson: Read: Matthew 5:14-16.

What do you think Jesus meant by this scripture?

Read: Stone Soup

Discuss: Why do you think the people hid their food when they saw the soldiers coming? What lesson did the soldiers teach the people of the town? This story shows the importance of working together and

using one's gifts wisely.

Activity: Snacks: Hand out the unopened snack to half of the class. Point out

to the class that half the class could have a snack of the own and half would not. Also, those with a snack really don't have much choice of what they have. Now, following the example of *Stone Soup*, have a large bowl that they all put their snacks into. Mix and serve to entire class in paper cups. Discuss the importance of working together and

sharing.

Have students do Sharing Our Talents with Others sheet.

Prayer:

Loving God,

Thank you for opportunity to learn about being a good steward.

Be with us as we develop our gifts and talents.

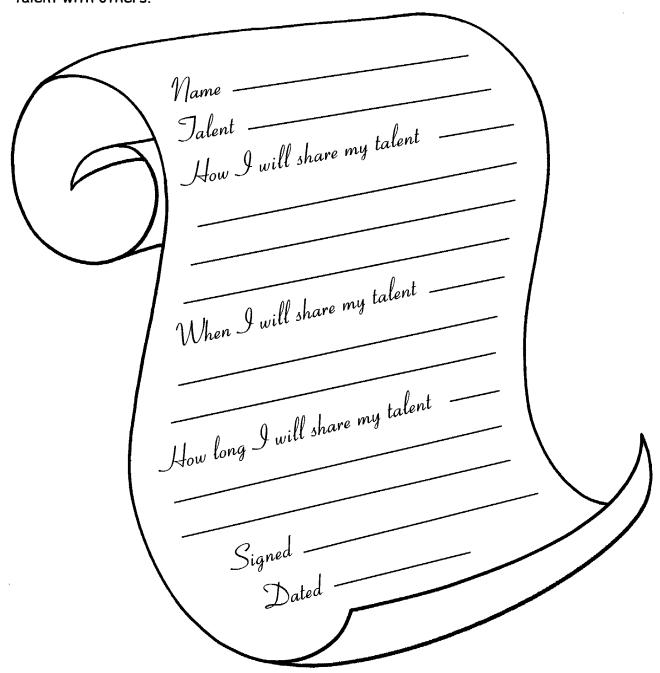
Help us be generous, forgiving, and loving.

Amen

Sharing Our Talents with Others

A light placed under a bushel basket doesn't offer much light to a room. Our talents are like a light for the world. Sharing them with others is a way for them to see God's love and greatness. Part of our calling as stewards is to humbly share our talents with others.

Choose a talent from the many you have received and write it on the certificate below. Complete this agreement as a way to remind yourself how you will share that talent with others.



Lesson One Grade Five

Theme: Discipleship

Objective: To help students to identify, define and apply the role of disciple.

Materials: Bible, copy of A Few of My Favorite Things for each student,

pencils

Lesson: You have been called and chosen by Jesus to follow him. You have

been called to be a *disciple* of Jesus. That's your vocation. You'll have other vocations in your life too. You may be a teacher or doctor, a musician or coach. Your jobs and careers may change several times

during your lifetime. However, the vocation of *disciple* remains constant regardless of those changes. Let's see what the bible says.

Read: Romans 12:4-8

So we see that God has a unique role for each of us and clues are planted for each of us that include our personal gifts, talents and interests. Discovering what God is calling you to do is a job for a

lifetime.

Activity: Have students do *A Few of My Favorite Things*. Have students take

their activity sheet home to remind them of all the marvelous gifts

continually gives to them and how they can use their gifts.

Prayer:

God

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for calling us to be your disciples.

Help us to recognize the special gifts you have given us.

Teach us how to use our gifts to serve you today.

Amen.

1

A Few of My Favorite Things

All that we have is a gift from God. Gifts from others are also gifts from God. We need to consider the things we buy for ourselves gifts from God. When we earn the money to buy something, we are utilizing God's gift of skills and talents.

List a few of your favorite things below on the lines to the left. Write where each came from on the lines to the right.

Now choose one or two from this group. Write something about each that makes it special. As you write, consider who gave it to you, how you use it and what it does. Exploring all the aspects of a gift is one way to fully appreciate it.

GIFT	WHERE IT CAME FROM
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
WHAT MAKES THIS GI	FT SO IMPORTANT TO ME?
	•

Lesson Two Grade Five

Theme: Stewardship

Objective: To help students understand that everything and everyone in our lives

is a gift from God. All of the gifts and talents which God has blessed

us with are gifts to be cared for and shared with others.

Materials: Bible, copy of for each student, *Being Mindful of God's Gifts*,

pencils.

Lesson: Read: Matthew 25:14-29

In this scripture passage the word *talents* means an amount of money. But, in this story talents is a play on words. The story is really talking about using your gifts or talents. Talents aren't just about athletic or artistic abilities or something you can get an award for. Being a good friend, a thoughtful daughter or son, a good student, or a peacemaker are all examples of talents or gifts we can share with others. God has blessed each of us with many different talents. No one has all the gifts and talents. God wants you to recognize your special gifts and He expects you to acknowledge those gifts and use them as a way to show your gratitude and as a way to serve others. Using our gifts for the glory of God is good stewardship—it's taking care of what God gives us.

God doesn't want us to bury our gifts and talents because we don't feel that we are good enough or because we'd be embarrassed or scared using them. He gives us gifts to develop and share with others. That's the way we show our gratitude to God for them.

Activity: Have students do sheet *Being Mindful of God's Gifts*. Have them

take their sheet home to remind them to be good stewards of their

gifts.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for blessing each of us with special gifts.

Help us to recognize and develop these gifts and talents.

Show us how to be good stewards everyday.

Amen

SHARING our
TIME with
OTHERS,
WORKING to
develop our TALENTS
and being GENEROUS
each DAY
with our TREASURES
HELPS us
FIND happiness and
HOPE in life.

Being Mindful of God's Gifts

Everything around us, every part of our lives, is a gift from God. We don't own any of these, but we are called to be stewards of the gifts God shares with us. A steward is someone who manages the property, finances or affairs of another. We are called to manage the gifts God gives us.

Use the word bank to fill in the missing words and discover what happens when we are good stewards.

	5 our
	T with
	E,
	W to
develop o	ır _ A ,
and being	R
•	each D
with our	5
	$H__$ us
	${f L}$ happiness and
	P_ in life.
·	e Talents Sharing Find Treasures e Generous Help Working Day

Lesson Three Grade Five

Theme: Attitude of Gratitude

Creator.

Objective: To help students to understand and be grateful that God is the creator

of all that we have and we are the stewards of his creation.

Materials: One copy of *Taking Care of Business* for each student, pencils, copy

of *The Canticle of Creation* (pg. 9) for each student.

<u>Lesson</u>: Tell the story of St. Francis of Assisi as an example of one who was

truly a disciple who answered God's call and he was a good steward of God's creation. Francis's father was a wealthy merchant and Francis planned to follow him in his trade, although he also dreamed of being a knight. He had a dream in which God called him to his service so Francis began to care for the sick.. He had another vision in which God called him to repair his church. So Francis became a hermit and devoted himself to repairing the church. His father was angry and embarrassed by his behavior. Francis gave up all his rights and possessions (even his clothes). Two years later he felt called to preach. Francis lived a life of simplicity, poverty, and humility. He Worked to care for the poor. He sought to follow fully and literally the way of life demonstrated by Christ. His respect and appreciation for creation was so profound because it always led him to the

Pass out *The Canticle of Creation* by St. Francis of Assisi. Reverently read a few lines. Ask students to pick out the most striking lines for them and share it with the class.

Each of us is given many gifts from God and it is our responsibility to take care of those gifts. That is the way we show appreciation and gratitude for all that God has given us.

Activity: Have students do *Taking Care of Business* activity.

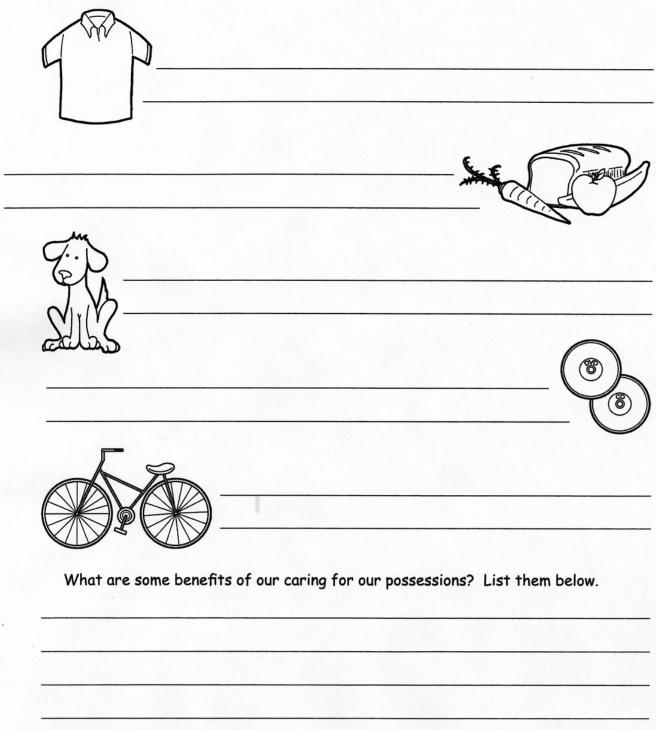
Prayer:

Loving God,
Thank you for all of creation.
Help me to be a good steward of all my gifts.
Amen.

Taking Care of Business

As stewards, it is important to care for the possessions entrusted to us. Stewards are responsible for caring for the gifts they receive. It is one way to show our gratitude for the gifts.

How can you take care of the possessions shown below? Write some ways on the lines provided.



Lesson Four Grade Five

Theme: Caring and Sharing

Objective: To help students understand that the gifts they have received from

God are to be cared for by them and shared with other.

Materials: Bible, one copy of *Recognizing God's Gifts* for each student, pencils.

Lesson: Read: 2 Cor. 9:6-8 and 1 Peter 4:10

Think about that for a minute... God will always provide in abundance, as you give—God gives more—God cannot be outdone. But what has been given to us is to be used to serve one another as good stewards. The church places God's gifts into three categories—

TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE.

What are some of your gifts?

How can you use your gift of time to serve others? How can you use your talents to serve others?

How can you use your treasure (your possessions) to serve others

at home, at school, in the community, and at church?

Activity: Have students do the activity page *Recognizing God's Gifts*. Have

them take the activity page home to remind them that God has given

them special gifts to care for and share with others.

Prayer:

Loving God,

Thank you for the blessing of an active parish and community,

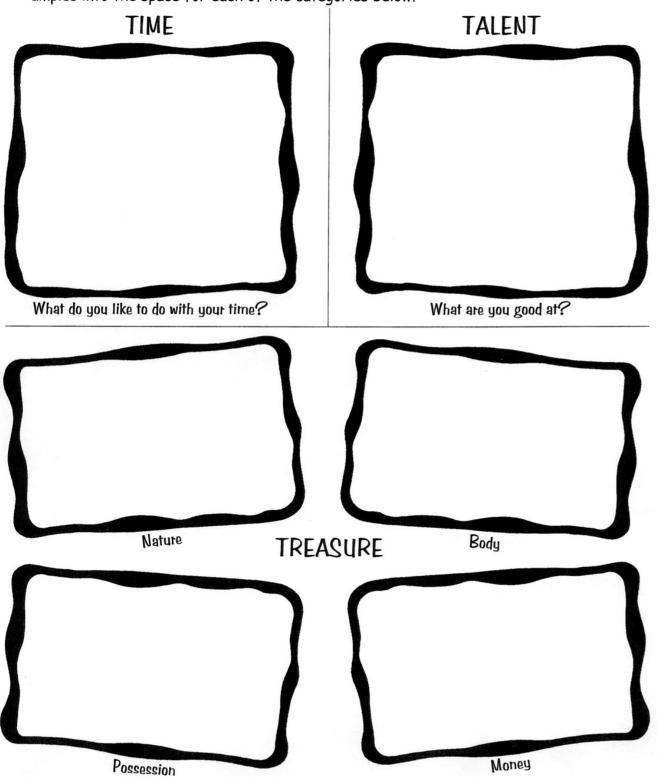
Help me to grow as a steward of your gifts

and learn to share more of myself with others.

Amen.

Recognizing God's Gifts

The Church places God's gifts into three categories - TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE. The gifts in these categories number among the stars. Draw or paste examples into the space for each of the categories below.



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CANTICLE OF CREATION BY ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Most high, omnipotent, righteous Lord, to you be all praise, glory, honour and blessing. To you alone are they due, and no man is worthy to mention you...

Praise be to you, my Lord, for all your creatures, above all Brother Sun, who gives us the light of day. He is beautiful and radiant with great splendour, and so is like you most high Lord.

Praise be to you, my Lord, for Sister Moon and the stars. In heaven you fashioned them, clear and precious and beautiful.

Praise be to you, my Lord, for Brother Wind, and for every kind of weather, cloudy or fair, stormy or serene, by which you cherish all that you have made.

Praise be to you, my Lord, for Sister Water, which is useful and humble and precious and pure.

Praise be to you, my Lord, for Brother Fire, by whom you lighten the night, for he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praise be to you, my Lord, for our Sister Earth, who sustains and governs us, and produces varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praise be to you, my Lord, for those who forgive sins in your love, and for those who bear sickness and tribulation.

Blessed are those who endure in peace, for by you, most high Lord, they shall be crowned.

Praise be to you, my Lord, for our Sister Bodily Death, from whom no living person can escape. Pity those who die in mortal sin.

Blessed are those who in death are found obedient to your most holy will, for death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord, giving him thanks and serving him with great humility.



Lesson One Grade Six

Theme: Discipleship

Objective: To help students understand that each of us is called and chosen to

be a disciple of Jesus.

To recognize our own gifts and talents and understand how God is

calling us to use them.

Materials: Bible, pencils, copy of *Star Search for Talent* for each student.

Lesson: Read: John 1: 35-50 After the reading, lead the students through a discussion about being chosen.

* If you were one of the characters in the story, who would you be?

* How would you tell the story through their eyes?

* How would you feel being chosen by Jesus?

* Is there someone in your life like Andrew or Philip, who led you to Jesus? Who is it?

* How were you called to be Jesus' follower?

* What does it mean to you to be chosen by Jesus by name?

The call to follow Jesus and imitate his way of life is called *discipleship*. This Christ-centered way of living has its beginnings in baptism. Does anyone know the first question that comes up at Baptism? [What name do you give your child?] The priest uses your name two times during the rite of baptism. The priest says your name "_____, the Christian community welcomes you with great joy!" and again when you were baptized with water he says, "_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father..." You were chosen by name to be a disciple of Jesus, to be a part of the Christian community, the parish. You have special gifts, talents, abilities to use

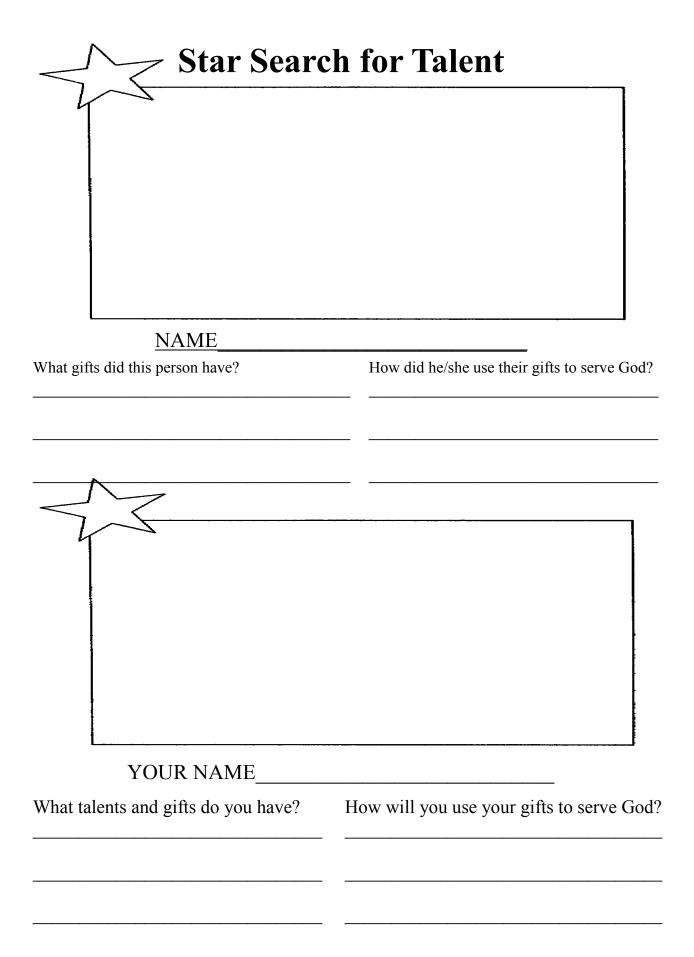
Activity:

Star Search for Talent Have students select a person: parent, grand parent, friend, pastor, teacher, or character from scripture and draw a picture of them on the star card. Then have them draw a picture of themselves on the second Star Card. Complete the activity.

Prayer:

Loving God,
You have called us and blessed us with many
Talents and abilities.
Help us to wisely use the gifts you have given us to serve you better.
Amen

1



Lesson Two Grade Six

Theme: Stewardship

Objective: To help students apply the role of steward to the three categories of

God's gifts as defined by the Church: time, talent and treasure.

Materials: Bible, one copy of *How to be a Steward* for each student, pencils,

markers, or colored pencils, 3 letter size sheets of paper for each

Student, long neck stapler, or a single hole punch and yarn.

Lesson: Read:1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

We are all given many gifts and we are responsible for how we take care of these gifts, how we develop them and what we do with them. This is called stewardship. The church has defined three categories of God's gifts; Time, Talent, and Treasure. If we are to be good stewards we need to know how to make use of our time, talent and treasure. Let us look at our use of time. First of all we need to make time for God everyday: quiet time, prayer, R\reading scripture,

meditation. We need time to care for ourselves: eat, exercise, hygiene, sleep. We need to share our time with others. When we share our time consider what talents (gifts) and possessions (treasurers) you have and think about how you can share them.

Activity: Have students do the *How to Be a Steward* activity. Have them take

their booklet home to remind them of how to be a good steward.

Prayer:

Loving God,

Thank you for the opportunity to learn about how to be good stewards.

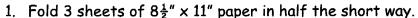
Help us to use our time, talents and treasures wisely
to serve you and others with grateful hearts.

Amen.

How to Be a Steward

God calls us as stewards and blesses us with all we have. A steward's job is not difficult once a person understands the call. The response is natural and we want to gratefully receive, care for and share all the gifts we receive.

To help you remember how to be a steward and to share what you know with others, follow the instructions below and create your own Stewardship Manual.



- 2. Finish your manual by either stapling or punching two holes along the folded side. If you punch holes, thread string or yarn through the holes. Tie into a knot and then a bow.
- 3. Number the pages using the cover as page 1.
- 4. Use the key below to label the pages of your manual.
- 5. Finally, using crayons, markers or colored pencils, illustrate each page of your manual.

outs	outside	
l am blessed.	l am a steward. All is gift.	
(ploy)		
12	1	

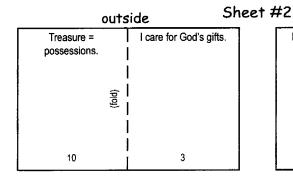
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I gratefully receive God's gifts.	Treasure = natural resources.
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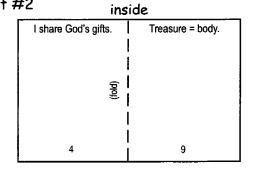
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ALL

IS

GIFT





outs	ide	Sheet #3
Treasure = money.	Time is a gift.	
(blo))		
8	5	

 1113	iue
Talent is a gift.	Treasure is a gift.
(fold)	
6	7

inside

Lesson Three Grade Six

Theme: Attitude of Gratitude

Objective: To understand and be grateful that God is the creator of all that we

have. To be aware of how we use our gift of time as good stewards.

Materials: Bible, copy of *Sharing time With Others* for each student, pencils.

<u>Lesson</u>: The church places all our gifts into three categories: Time, Talent,

and Treasure. We are each given only a limited amount of time in our lives. It's very important that we use that time wisely. Making time for God is the best way to take care of our spiritual health. Discuss examples of how we make time for God [quiet time, prayer,

reading scripture, and meditating]

Giving thanks is the first step of the Christian response to receiving God's gifts. Gratitude is an attitude—a personal quality that molds us and shapes our lives; it is not just something we say or do.

Read: Colossians 3:12-17 (give thanks)

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (pray)

Discuss the readings

Some of our time must be spent in taking care of ourselves (our bodies). Just like any other gift, we must care for our bodies. Our bodies allow us to do so many things. If we ignored our bodies' needs, we could face a lot of trouble. We could be tired or sick. It would also mean that it could be hard to do some of our other duties as stewards. As good stewards, we need to provide for the needs of our bodies. We also need to stay away from those things that hurt or harm them. Can you think of ways we need to spend time for ourselves? Four basic needs of our body are: fuel, exercise, hygiene and sleep.

We also need to take time for others.

Activity: Have students do the activity sheet *Sharing Time With Others*.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,
Teach us ways to use our gift of time for God, for ourselves
and for others with grateful hearts.
Help us to be good stewards. Amen.

Sharing Time With Others

Stewards see time as a gift to share with others. After time spent with God and taking care of themselves, stewards use time in service for others. When making choices of how to spend time in service, you should think about all the people in your life. Consider the time you have available. Some times are committed to specific things, such as school. Consider what talents you possess, and then think about how you can share them with others. Write some of these on the lines below. Now choose the activity you will use in service for others.

Use the calendar below to commit a minimum of 15 minutes each day to use time in service of others.

١

My Week of Service to Others

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Lesson Four Grade Six

Theme: Caring and Sharing

Objective: To recognize the need to become lifelong stewards who gratefully

share the gifts of time, talent and treasure.

Materials: Bible, copy of *Stewardship Needs Daily Practice* for each student,

pencils

Lesson: Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Become cheerful givers of time, talent and treasure.

Ask students how they might use their time (talent, treasures) as

good stewards. Write their responses on the chalk board.

Time: Quiet time with God; prayer; going to Church; attending Religion classes; celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation;

saying morning/night prayers; taking care of their bodies with proper

food, exercise, hygiene and rest.

Talent: Being an altar server, doing chores at home; helping a neighbor take out the trash; mowing the lawn or shoveling the snow; calling up your grandparents to say "hi"; tutoring children at school; helping a friend with homework; volunteering for the Soup Supper. **Treasure:** Give a portion of the money you receive (through baby-sitting, allowance, or as gifts) to your parish, spending money more

on needs than on wants; avoiding reckless or impulse buying.

Activity: Review the activity sheet *Stewardship Needs Daily Practice* with the

students

Prayer:

Loving God,

Thank you for all that you give to us

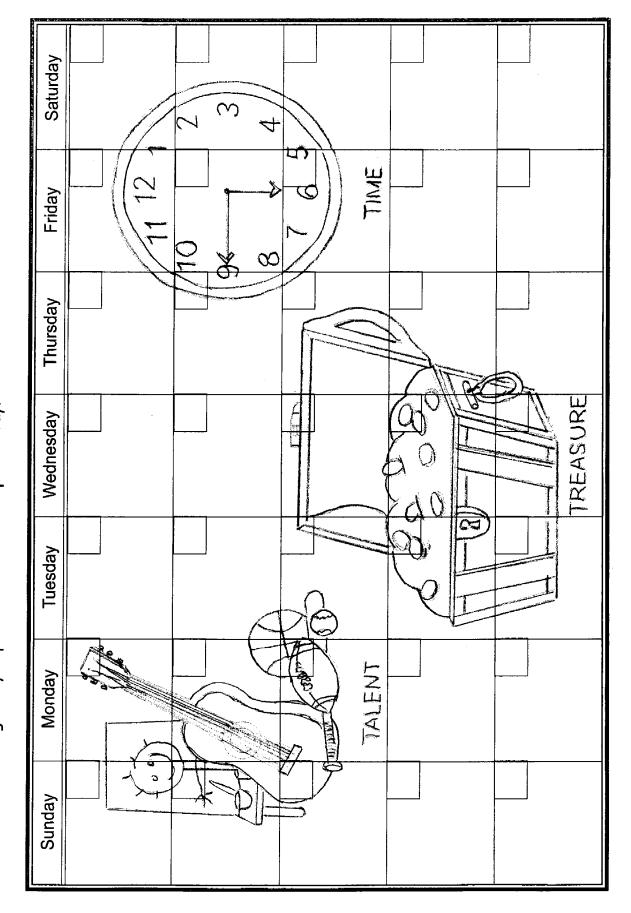
Be with us as we learn ways to share our
time, talents and treasures with others.

Help us to be good stewards every day in every way.

Amen.

Stewardship Needs Daily Practice

and over until they become habits. One way to help you practice stewardship is to record ways you acted like a steward each day. Use the calendar below to help you record your practice for a month. Draw a picture or write Practicing good stewardship is a lot like developing other talents and skills. You have to take little steps over a sentence describing how you practiced stewardship each day.



Lesson One Grade Seven

Theme: Discipleship.

Objective: To identify, define and apply the role of disciple.

Materials: Bible, copy of *Come Follow Me* for each student

<u>Lesson</u>: What do you think of when you hear the word "disciple"? (Write

their answers on the chalkboard.)

A disciple is a learner, a pupil; one who follows the example of the master. Disciples could be interns who study and follow professional doctors, student-artists who study the works of masters, members of sports teams who follow their coaches. Ask students for other examples. For Christians, a disciple is defined as a follower of Jesus. ALL OF US are called to be disciples.

Just as there are requirements for belonging to a sports team, such as daily practice, etc... there are also requirements for being a disciple of Jesus.

Read: Luke 9:23-26 (The cost of being a disciple) Discuss this reading with your students. This means giving up anything that comes before Christ, such as...(have students comment).

"Disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ, no matter the cost to themselves." [Stewardship: A Disciple's Response 1]

Activity: Have students do the activity page *Come Follow Me*.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus,
Thank you for calling me to be your disciple.
Help me to know what you want of me.
Give me the courage and strength to do what you ask of me.
I want to learn to be a good disciple.
Amen

Come Follow Me

A Christian disciple
is a person who accepts the call to be a follower of Jesus
and who lives his or her life in imitation of Jesus.
Christian discipleship is a way of life.

Are you willing to become a disciple of Jesus? Why or why not	?
What are your fears of giving Christ your total self?	
What are some daily practical ways to practice discipleship? at home?	
in school?	
in your parish?	

Lesson Two Grade Seven

Theme: Stewardship

Objective: To define "steward" and recognize the responsibilities of a Christian

steward.

Materials: Bible, 15 round objects

<u>Lesson</u>: Committing one's self to being a disciple of Jesus isn't expressed in

one single action, not even in many actions repeated over time; it's an entire way of life and that leads naturally to the practice of

"stewardship".

A "steward is one to whom the owner of the household turns over responsibility for caring for the property, managing affairs, making resources yield as much as possible, and sharing the resources with others. **The position involves trust and accountability.**"

[Stewardship: A Disciple's Response 20]

Activity: Read: Matthew 25:14-30 Have students pantomime or role play *The*

Parable of the Talents. Do the points of discussion.

Prayer:

Lord God,

Thank you for entrusting us with so many gifts and talents.

Help us to see how we can become good stewards

and responsible caretakers of all that you have given us.

Amen.

The Parable of the Talents

A story of a man who was going on a journey, and who left his wealth to be tended by three servants.

Assign parts for the master and the three servants. Have 15 round objects to represent the "talents" in the story.

Read: Matthew 25: 14-30

Have students pantomime or role play the parable.

Discuss the meaning of the parable and elicit from students applications to their life.

Points of discussion:

- * Two respond wisely; invest money; make profit; are rewarded by the master.
- * The third "squirrels away" the master's wealth; earns nothing; is rebuked and punished.
- * Talents in the parable represent all the temporal and spiritual goods created and given to us by God.
- * One day God will require an accounting of the use that each of us has made of the particular gifts, talents and abilities entrusted to each of us.
- * The things on earth are created for us to help us to attain the end for which we were created.
- * A Christian steward is the caretaker of all God's gifts.
- * Christian stewardship is the careful and responsible use of God's created gifts.
- * To be responsible is to be accountable, reliable and trustworthy; to be answerable for all that is entrusted to us.
- * Stewardship is putting God first in our lives every day in every way.
- * As disciples we are called to be good stewards of the gifts we possess.
- * God has made us stewards of this world and the church.
- * Jesus calls you to be a Christian steward
 - * as members of a family in your home.
 - * as students in your school
 - * as members of a parish family in your community.

Lesson Three Grade Seven

Theme: Attitude of Gratitude

Objective: To discover the talents each one has been given and to show

gratitude to God for them by developing them and using them in

service to others.

Materials: Bible, copy of *My Talent Resume* for each student,

<u>Lesson</u>: God has given each of us many gifts and talents. God expects us to

use these gifts to grow in our faith and to help the faith of others.

Read: Romans 12:1-8

You can't use your talents for God and others if you don't know what they are. What are your gifts? (Have students do the activity page) Good stewards must first recognize their gifts. They thank God for them. Then they work to develop them and finally they share their talents with others. That is how they can fully live a life of steward

ship that is pleasing to God.

What have you discovered about your gifts today? You may share

with the class if you like.

Let us close with a short pray of thanksgiving for your talents and

dreams.

Activity: Have students do the activity page *My Talent Resume*.

Prayer:

Lord God,

We are grateful for the many gifts you have blessed us with.

Help us to learn to develop

and use these talents

in the ways that are pleasing to you.

Amen.

My Talent Resume

I think I a	am good at
Others to	ell me I am good at
I am cre	ative when it comes to
The best	feature of my personality is
I think I	work best with (age group)
Some jo	bs I have successfully completed are
I would	like to become better at
Some of	my goals are

Lesson Four Grade Seven

Theme: Sharing and Caring

Objective: To determine how to use their gifts of time, talent and treasure with

others.

Materials: Bible, copy of *Good Things are for Sharing* for each student

Lesson: Read: Matthew 6: 19-21

We all have special gifts from God to develop, care for and use for ourselves and to share with others. This is how we express our gratitude to God for all that he has given us. The church puts these

gifts in three categories: Time, Talent, and Treasure.

We have been given only so many gifts so we need to use them wisely. One gift we all have is our body. How do you think we can be good stewards of our bodies? [nutrition, exercise, rest, hygiene] What are some other gifts we all have? ([intellect, soul, faith, time]

How can we be good stewards of these gifts?

What are some of your talents? [list] How can we be good stewards

of these gifts? [learn, practice, follow rules]

What are the things you treasure? [possessions, money] How can you

be a good steward of your treasures? [care, share]

Activity: Have students fill out their activity sheet *Good Things are for*

Sharing.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for all the blessings you have given us.
Help us to always be mindful that
we are to share what we have to grow as good stewards.
Amen.

Good Things are for Sharing

A bell is not a bell until you ring it.
A song is not a song until you sing it.
And love in your heart is not put there to stay.
Love is not love until you give it away.

Oscar Hammerstein

What are some ways you can share your **Time**, **Talent**, **Treasure** with others?

<u>Family</u> Time	<u>Church</u> Time
Talent	Talent
Treasure	Treasure
<u>School</u> Time	Other Ways to Share My Gifts Time
Talent	Talent
Treasure	Treasure

Lesson One Grade Eight

Theme: Discipleship

Objective: To understand what discipleship is and apply this understanding to

everyday life.

Materials: Bible, a copy of *Come, Be My Disciple* for each student.

<u>Lesson</u>: Have you ever heard of the Greek philosophers Socrates and

Aristotle, or the religious leaders Buddha and Mohammed? Through the years, these and other wise and learned persons, have attracted a following of people who hoped to learn about the mysteries of life. These teachers were called "masters". Their followers were called "disciples" which means learners; a follower; one who learns from a

teacher/master/

Of all the world's great teachers or masters, Jesus is the greatest teacher in the world and he has "disciples" who are dedicated to him. Jesus, who is God's Son, had a mission. A mission is the work each person is asked to do in his or her life. Jesus' mission was to make present the "reign of God" - the rule of God over our hearts - it's God's love reaching out to all.

Read: Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus was strengthened by baptism for his mission. Then he with drew to have quiet time to prepare himself for his mission and time to think and to pray. As Jesus began his ministry. Jesus, the "master" invited those who came to listen to him, to "follow him" - to become

his disciples.

Activity: Have students form small groups and brainstorm the questions found

on sheet, Come, Be My Disciple. Share response with the class.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you are the "master"
Thank you for calling us to follow you.
Teach us what you want us to do
and help us to become good disciples.
Amen.

Come, Be My Disciple

Being a disciple means committing oneself to the Lord. This commitment is not expressed in a single action, not even in a number of actions over a period of time, but in an entire way of life. It begins with conversion, a change of mind and heart.

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response1

What are some challenges or fears that students your age face everyday at home, in school, in your parish and in your community if they are serious about following Jesus?

What things would students your age most likely have to change in their lives at home, in school, in your parish and in your community if they decide to be real disciples of Jesus?

Lesson Two Grade Eight

Theme: Stewardship

Objective: To understand the meaning of steward and stewardship.

Materials: Bible, a copy of *To Be a Good Steward* for each student.

Becoming a disciple in our faith journey with Jesus leads to the practice of "stewardship." Stewardship: A Disciple's Response 13

<u>Lesson</u>: Do you know what a steward is?

The dictionary defines <u>steward</u> as the caretaker/manager of someone else's property and <u>stewardship</u> as the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. In Jesus' time, stewards were <u>responsible</u> for the management of someone else's property. They were expected to take the place of the owner and to make important decisions about what was entrusted to their care. They were expected to be honest, responsible and trustworthy. Jesus himself describes a disciple's life in terms of stewardship.

Read: Luke 12:42-48

"Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." What do you think this means?

Activity: Have students do the activity sheet, To Be A Good Steward. They

may share their answers with the class.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus,
You have called us to follow you
and to be caretakers of all that you have given to us.
Teach us to live every day of our lives as good stewards.
Amen.

To Be A Good Steward

A good steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord.

Stewardship" A Disciple's Response 7,8,45

What does it mean:

To receive God's gifts gratefully?	
To cherish and tend them in a responsible and accountable manner?	
To share them in justice and love with others?	
To return them with increase to the Lord?	

Lesson Three Grade Eight

Theme: Attitude of Gratitude

Objective: To become aware of the gifts and talents given to each person and to

use them in a way that expresses gratitude to God for them.

Materials: Bible, copy of *Talent Search Application* for each student.

Lesson: Read: Matthew 25:14-29 the Parable of the Talents.

Why was each servant given a different amount of money? [Each servant was given an amount based on his ability to care for it.] Did the master expect each servant to earn the same amount? [No, he expected them to use the gift and through its use, increase its value.]

Who were the "good and faithful servants" and how were they rewarded? [They increased the value of their gifts and were rewarded by being given greater responsibility.]

What happened to the servant who hid his money in order to protect and save it for the master? [The master reclaimed the gift given to the servant.]

How were the good and faithful servants acting as good stewards? [They were given the task of caretaking and were good managers of their gifts.]

their gifts.]

Activity: Have students fill out the activity page, *Talent Search Application*.

Tell them they are applying for the best of all jobs, as a good Steward

working for God.

Prayer: A natural first response by one who has been given many gifts and

talents is to say, thank you.

Dear Lord, creator of all good things, thank you for blessing us with so many gifts. Give each of us a grateful heart. Help us to become better stewards of the treasures you give us. Amen.

Talent Search Application

NAME
GRADE
Talents and Abilities: (What do you think you are good at?)
Qualifications: (Why do you think you are good at this? What have you done?)
Interests: (What are some things you enjoy doing?)
Recommendations: (What do family and friends say you are good at?)
Job Possibilities: (What can you do with these talents and abilities that would please God?)

Lesson Four Grade Eight

Theme: Caring and Sharing

Objective: To understand that a good steward of God's gifts cares for and shares

their gifts with others for the good of all.

Materials: Bible, a copy of *A Caring and Sharing Steward* for each student.

Lesson: Read: Mark 4:24-25 and/or Mark 12:41-44

It's not enough to receive our gifts from God with a "thank you" and then stash them away and forget about them. God gives us talents, abilities and gifts to care for, to develop and to share with others for our own growth and for the good of all. Sharing is a way to truly

express gratitude for what God gives us in our lives.

The church puts God's gifts into three categories: Time, Talent, and Treasure. Stewardship is a call to be caretakers, not owners, of our

time, talents and treasures.

Activity: Have each student do the activity *A Caring and Sharing Steward*.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for everything you give to me.
Help us be aware of the needs of others.
Teach us to share what we have with those who do not have enough.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

A Caring and Sharing Steward

1.	What are some ways that you can be a better steward of your time?
2.	Name some ways that people use their talents at your parish for the good of the church.
3.	What are the things you treasure?
	What are some ways you can use the time, talents and treasures that God has given to you home:
At	school:
At	church:
In	the community:
5.	What is your favorite talent?

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