

# GROWING GENEROUS FOLLOWERS

## *How to Use the Material*

Stewardship is a spiritual discipline. Just as we grow believers who read Scripture, pray, worship and serve, we are called to develop Christ followers who view generosity as a key element of the life of faith. To this end, these lessons for adults, youth and children have been made available to you and your church to be used for a focused time of study on what it means to be good stewards.

You will notice that each set of studies for the three age categories includes four lessons. Since the lessons are not dated, you have absolute flexibility in how you use them. Whether you want to do a one-day emphasis and thus use a favorite lesson from each set, or, even if you want to use all the lessons and spend a month teaching about stewardship, you have complete control over how you and your church use this material.

One note to be aware of is that these lessons are a reworking of material originally prepared for adults, youth and children at different times. While all lessons in each age category deal with some element of giving, they don't deal with the exact same themes or texts. Therefore, it is important not to try to create too much cohesion other than the overarching theme of generosity.

With that in mind, there certainly are overlapping themes, common points of emphasis and continuity. There are also basic questions that the lessons naturally ask of all learners that could easily be discussed by a family who has a member engaged in these lessons in all three age groups. As a result, if a church chooses to use all the lessons provided for a month-long emphasis, a nice way for an individual or a family to continue the conversation at home would be to focus on the weekly questions listed below. These questions could be used for personal reflection during the subsequent week or during discussion around the dinner table one night.

Week One: How would you define the term "stewardship?"

Week Two: What does it look like for you or your family to give an offering to your church?

Week Three: Beyond giving an offering, what are other ways of being a steward?

Week Four: What are some practical ways that you (you as a family) could be more generous?

We hope you will benefit from these lessons. We appreciate the commitment of your church to growing generous followers of Christ.

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