

# “The Stewardship Pyramid” - LESSON 1

## “What Is Stewardship?”

### Main Focus:

God has given me responsibility of HIS stuff!



### Power Verse:

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”

- Psalm 24:1



### Watt’s Up:

“I’ll Be A Good Steward And Take Care Of God’s Stuff!”

## LEADER’S INFO

“Stewardship” is a word we often hear in church, but it is rarely defined. Kids have no concept of what a “steward” is because this term is rarely used in our society anymore.

In this lesson, your kids will begin to understand what stewardship is all about and how it applies to our lives. They will learn through the Parable of the Talents how God has entrusted each of us with time, money, and talent. How we use these assets determines how good of a steward we really are.

Throughout this series, the children will be challenged to move up the Stewardship Pyramid. They will learn the levels of obedience, generosity, and sacrifice and what it takes to move up each level.



### “LIVE” Intro Segment

“Hope you don’t mind!”



### “Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”



### Character Skit

“Wacky Wally”



### Offering Time



### Game On!

“Money MATTER\$”



### Bible Story

“Parable of the Talents”



### Power Verse Video

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.” - Psalm 24:1



### Call To Action

“What Is Stewardship?”



### Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game



### Small Group Experience

**Main Focus:**

God has given me responsibility of HIS stuff!



**Power Verse:**

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”

- Psalm 24:1



**Watt’s Up:**

“I’ll Be A Good Steward And Take Care Of God’s Stuff!”

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**“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video**

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**Character Skit**

“Wacky Wally”

**Offering Time**

**Game On!**

“Money MATTER\$”

**Bible Story**

“Parable of the Talents”

**Power Verse Video**

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**Call To Action**

“What Is Stewardship?”

**Brain Drain**

PowerPoint Review Game

**Small Group Experience**

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
by \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
by \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
by \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
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17 \_\_\_\_\_  
by \_\_\_\_\_



## “LIVE” Intro Segment

**Leader:** Hey kids! Today’s lesson is all about “stewardship.” Has anyone ever heard of the word “stewardship” before?

*(allow kids to respond)*

**Leader:** Stewardship is a word that we may not hear about a lot. I want to teach you what it means. But, before I explain what stewardship is, I want to show you something cool.

*(pull out a small, cheap ceramic figurine)*

**Leader:** This is something very important. It’s a figurine that my grandmother owns. It is very special to her. She asked me to take good care of it while she was on vacation. She didn’t want anything to happen to it. I have an idea. Wouldn’t it be cool if I sold this figurine and then bought some candy for myself with the money?

*(allow kids to respond)*

**Leader:** *(pauses, thinks)* I guess I shouldn’t do that. Well, what if I just decided to give this figurine away to a stranger on the street. Do you think my grandmother would care?

*(allow kids to respond)*

**Leader:** Yeah, I guess she wouldn’t want me to do that either. Why is it so important that I take good care of this figurine?

*(allow kids to respond, basically until someone says, “Because it isn’t yours!”)*

**Leader:** That’s right! It isn’t mine! It belongs to my grandmother! If I sell it and use the money for myself or if I give it away or even break it - then I am not being a good steward of my grandmother’s stuff. You see, kids, that is what stewardship is. Stewardship is “taking care of someone else’s stuff.”

God has given us everything we have - our money, clothes, houses, toys, possessions, talents, time - everything! In fact, it’s not our stuff at all - it is HIS! How well we take care of the stuff God has given us determines how good of a “steward” we are. If we honor God by taking good care of the stuff He has allowed us to borrow while we are here on Earth, then we are practicing good “stewardship!”

Today, that’s what our lesson is all about - “What is Stewardship?”



## CHARACTER SKIT

**Character: “Wacky Wally”** (*Wacky Wally thinks of himself as the “world’s greatest Superhero – in training.” He is hyperactive, compulsive and obsessed with everything there is to do with comic books.*)

**WALLY:** (*runs out onstage with his arms outstretched and making “whooshing” noises. Stops in front of the leader and strikes a heroic pose*) There’s no need to fear! WACKY WALLY IS HERE!

**Leader:** What is going on?!

**WALLY:** (*turns to look at the leader*) Have no fear, citizen! It is I, Wacky Wally - The world’s GREATEST Superhero (*speaks under his breath*) in training.

**Leader:** YOU’RE a Superhero? That’s really...distressing.

**WALLY:** (*gasps, excited*) A citizen in distress!! MY HOUR HAS ARRIVED! Don’t worry, puny weakling! (*flexes muscles*) I will save you! Wacky Wally - AWAAAAAAAAAYYY! (*runs over and tries to pick up the leader, strains hard – unable to pick up the leader at all*) Oh wow, you’re a...HEAVY citizen!

**Leader:** I am NOT. Would you STOP that please?!

**WALLY:** (*lets go, doubled over in pain*) There you go, you’re saved.

**Leader:** Thanks, I think.

**WALLY:** (*stretches his back to standing upright*) That’ll be 10 bucks.

**Leader:** 10 BUCKS? That’s outrageous! You didn’t even do anything!

**WALLY:** Hey! You insulted me! That’s an extra 15!

**Leader:** You’re a SUPERHERO! You’re not supposed to CHARGE the people you save!

**WALLY:** Hey, I’ve got to make some money SOMEHOW! I’ve got to take care of my STUFF! It takes a lot of dough to be a Superhero in training! I’ve got my gym membership, my dry-cleaning bill, and what do you think pays for this heroic grin? (*smiles right in the leader’s face*) Batman has a cool car! Iron Man has that awesome suit! Spider-Man has...um...SPIDER STUFF! Well, this is MY stuff. And it’s all junky! I need NEW stuff! So pay up, buttercup!

**Leader:** Whoa, haven’t you ever heard of stewardship?

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## CHARACTER SKIT

*(continued)*

**WALLY:** Who's Stewart? What kind of ship does he own? *(gets excited)* Can we go for a ride on Stewart's ship? *(grabs the leader by the shoulders)* Do you get seasick? Don't you DARE throw up on my cape!

**Leader:** *(wrestles away from Wally's grip)* No, I mean STEWARDSHIP. We're starting a series all about stewardship – you know, taking care of God's stuff?

**WALLY:** Oh, well it's a good thing I don't OWN any of God's stuff. I'd hate to crack God's teapot or something.

**Leader:** ACTUALLY – everything you own belongs to God.

**WALLY:** *(does a double-take)* Excuse me? You mean MY stuff? I think you're mistaken. I've paid for ALL of this. I've even gotten my name written on all of it! And I do NOT see God's name written on any of my underwear!

**Leader:** No-no-NO. God is the creator of everything. So, naturally, since He made everything, He OWNS everything. Everything we have, from our clothes, to our food, even our families are a gift from God! You don't actually OWN anything! God OWNS it all!

**WALLY:** But I BOUGHT this! With my money! Doesn't that mean I have a right to it?

**Leader:** Nope, not really. God still has every right to it. God gives us all of these things because He loves us, and He wants us to be responsible with them. He gives us things to see if He can trust us with them!

**WALLY:** Why would He do that?

**Leader:** Because – He wants to BLESS us! If you're faithful in taking care of the little things, God will bless us with BIG things!

**WALLY:** So, you're telling me that all of MY stuff isn't really mine. It's all gifts from God. And if I take care of this little stuff, He'll see I can be responsible with BIG stuff?

**Leader:** Exactly! That's what stewardship is all about!

**WALLY:** Wow! *(looks himself all over)* Looks like I need to take better care of the stuff God has already given me. *(strikes a heroic pose)* Onto my next mission!

**Leader:** Where are you going?

**WALLY:** The nearest sewing machine. I've got a rip in my superhero undies that's KILLING me! WACKY WALLY! AWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAY! *(pretends to fly away as his theme video plays)*



**GAME ON!**  
**“MONEY MATTERS”**

**Items Needed For Game:**

PowerPoint Presentation provided

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**Preparation:**

Choose three boys and three girls to participate in this PowerPoint Quiz Game

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**How To Play:**

Teams take turns answering trivia questions that relate to money. The team to have the most correct answers at the end of the ten questions is declared the winner!



## Bible Story

### “Parable Of The Talents”

#### Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

#### Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Matthew 25:14-28; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

#### The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Matthew chapter 25. It’s a story that Jesus told His disciples to illustrate what “stewardship” was all about. The story begins with a master and his three servants. (*show pic*) The Master explained to his servants that he was about to go on a trip. But, while he was gone he had a few assignments for the servants.



(*show pic*) He gave each servant an amount of talents. A “talent” was a measure of silver. Basically, one bag of silver equals a “talent”, just to make it easier to understand. To one servant, he gave five talents. To another, he gave two talents. To the final servant, he gave one talent. You may wonder, “Why didn’t he just give everyone the same amount?” Remember, - he is the owner. It is HIS money. He is able to distribute his money as He chooses.



The master explained to the servants that he wanted them to put the money to good use while he was gone. When he returned, he would ask them what they did with the money. With that, the master went off on his trip.



While the owner was gone, the servants got busy. (*show pic*) The servant who was given five talents “put them to work” (maybe he bought a business) and he ended up earning five more. The servant who had been given two talents put them to work (maybe he invested them) and he earned two more. The servant who had been given the one talent - he decided he would just bury it in the ground and wait for his master to return.



When the master returned, he asked for a report of what the servants had done with his money he had loaned them. He was pleased with the two servants who had used his money wisely and expanded his kingdom. He told them, (*show pic*) “Well done, good and faithful servants! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.” However, he was not pleased with the servant who had wasted the money by just burying it in a hole. (*show pic*) To this servant he said, “You wicked lazy servant! Even what you have will be taken away from you!” Then, he took back the money and sent the servant on his way.

In this story, the master represents God. We are the servants. God has given all of us money and possessions to use to build His Kingdom. Today, we are going to learn how to use HIS money and possessions correctly!



## Call To Action

### “What Is Stewardship?”

#### Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; a diaper, a baby rattle, a pacifier

#### Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson One,” begin with the slide titled “What Is Stewardship?”

**The Message:** *(title slide)*



Today, we are learning about something we will call “The Stewardship Pyramid.” Starting next week, we will begin to learn the three levels of the pyramid and what it takes to “move up” the pyramid. First, we have to understand what stewardship truly is. Earlier, we learned that stewardship is “taking care of someone else’s stuff.”

I am going to hold up a few items. I want you to tell me what kind of person might use them. *(hold up the diaper, baby rattle, and pacifier; allow the kids to respond)* That’s right, a baby would use all three of these things. Now, babies have a very particular way of thinking. One of the first words they seem to learn is “MINE!” If you try to pick something up that is close to them, they grab it and yell, “MINE!” Even if it doesn’t really belong to them, if they like it and they want it they claim it by yelling, “MINE!!!”

Sadly, many people grow older and never grow out of that “MINE” mindset. They sound a lot like the birds on “Finding Nemo” - “mine, mine, mine, mine!” They think that anything and everything they have here on Earth is theirs. But, there’s something important that you and I must learn...

**I Don’t Own Anything! God Owns It All!** *(slide)*



*James 1:17* teaches us that “Every good and perfect gift come from the Father above.” *Psalms 24:1* says, “The Earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.” You see, God owns everything. Everything I have comes from Him. God just lets me borrow it for the amount of time I am here on Earth and asks me to manage it. He owns it; I manage it. See – it’s not MY money – it’s HIS money. It’s not my stuff, it’s HIS stuff. Everything I have, I have because He has entrusted it to me.

Just like the servants in our Bible Story, God has given us all different amounts of time, money, talent, and ability. We have to remember that ALL of these are HIS. He just gives them to us to use for the short time we are here on Earth. Why is it so important that we understand we aren’t owners, but stewards? Well...

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## Call To Action (Continued)



### An Owner Has Rights! A Steward Has Responsibilities (slide)

Too many people view themselves as the OWNER of their money and stuff. So, they say things like, “I have the right to choose whether or not I want to give in the offering at church.” Or, “I have the right to decide where my money is spent. Who cares if I waste it? I have the right to choose what to spend MY money on.”

The problem with this is that you are NOT the owner. You are just the steward. You see, the owner (God) has the right to choose what He wants to give and to whom. That’s why not everyone has the same amount of stuff. I don’t know why God chooses to give more to some and less to others. It’s like the owner in our Bible Story. He gave five bags to one servant, two bags to another servant, and one bag to the final servant. He had the right to do whatever he wanted because he was the OWNER.

The stewards didn’t have the right to do whatever they wanted with the owners money. The stewards had a responsibility to be wise with the owner’s money. That’s why those who invested the money wisely were commended while the one who just buried it and didn’t use it wisely was scolded. He didn’t handle his responsibility well.

What does this mean for you and me? You see, God has given each of us a certain amount of money, time, talent, etc. If we waste it, we are not being good stewards. If we are selfish and see it as OUR time, money, or talent, then we are not being good stewards. But, if we realize that we have a responsibility to invest our time, money, and talent into building the Kingdom of God, giving to others, helping others, then we will be good stewards.

What happened to the bad steward? He was punished. What happened to the good stewards? The same thing that happens to us when we are faithful with what God has given us...

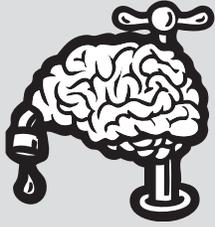
### If I Am Faithful, I Will Be Blessed (slide)



If you show that you will be faithful with what you have, then God will bless you with more. That’s what happened to the good stewards in our Bible Story. They showed they could be faithful with a little, so the owner gave them even more to be responsible with. That’s what each one of us should long for - the day when we stand before God and He says, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” Won’t that be wonderful? That’s why it is SO important to be a faithful steward.

### ALTAR RESPONSE (play soft music)

Pray with the children to always remember that they are stewards of God’s resources. They may not have much money or possessions now, but if they are faithful with the little that they currently have, God can bless them with even more. They can use their time, money, talent, and possessions to build the Kingdom and to bless others.



## BRAIN DRAIN

### Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; The DVD

### Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Video Intro off the DVD; Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson One,” begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

**1. Watt’s Up today?**

**Answer:** “I Will Be A Good Steward And Take Care Of God’s Stuff!”

**2. How many servants did the owner have in our Bible Story?**

**Answer:** three

**3. How many of the servants were rewarded when the owner returned?**

**Answer:** two

**4. What did the third servant do with his money that made the owner angry?**

**Answer:** buried it in the ground

**5. What did the owner do for the two good servants?**

**Answer:** gave them more money

**6. According to our lesson today, “I Don’t Own Anything! \_\_\_\_\_ Owns It All!”**

**Answer:** God

**7. According to our lesson today, “An Owner Has Rights, A Steward Has \_\_\_\_\_.”**

**Answer:** Responsibilities

**8. According to our lesson today, “If I Am \_\_\_\_\_, I Will Be Blessed.”**

**Answer:** Faithful

**9. True or False: “My money is my money.”**

**Answer:** False

**10. Where was our Power Verse found?**

**Answer:** Psalm 24:1