

**GCCHM Leadership Certification
Level IV, Course #3**

**BEING GOD'S FAITHFUL STEWARD
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(Presenter's Notes)**

Being God's Faithful Steward

What Is A Steward?

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were given the responsibility of taking care of God's world. They were to manage, to plan, and to control their environment. They were to care for the animals and birds, to keep the garden attractive, and to provide a home for themselves and their future children. In the evenings, God came to the garden to talk with Adam and Eve and to see all that they had done. (Gen 1:26-28; 2:15; Psalm 12:6; 1 Cor. 4:1,2).

- A steward is a manager who takes care of many things for someone else.
- Each of us is God's steward or manager.
- We are to take care of God's things given to us.
- A faithful manager puts the wishes of his boss over his own.

In the Beginning...

In the beginning God created everything in this world. He cared for Adam and Eve and provided all the good things for them. "Everything in the heavens and earth is yours, O Lord," 1 Chronicles 29:11.

But after man sinned, God sent His only Son, Jesus to die on the cross for us. Jesus saved us, redeemed us. Therefore, God is a loving Creator, Owner, Redeemer, and Provider. He wants us to take care of all the good things He has given to us. That's why we are called to be God's managers!

What Are We Supposed to Manage?

- Money
- Body
- Time
- Talents & abilities
- Environment

1. Money Matters

Work Hard to Please the Lord

The first thing we are asked to manage is our money because if we don't take care of our money we can lose it fast. Many of us work to earn an income to support ourselves and our families. We are to work hard and not be lazy. That's why the Apostle Paul reminds us:

"Whatever you do, do your work heartily as for the Lord." Colossians 3:23

Malachi 3:10

"Bring me all your tithes into my storehouse, and test me, if I will not open the windows of heaven that you will have no room to receive them."

Returning 1/10 of what we earn to God is the first thing we do. God promises us great blessings if we follow His commands. In fact, He even asks us to test Him.

Tithe – Firstfruits to God—1/10 or 10%

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing," Proverbs 3:9, 10.

The "Firstfruits" represent the first thing you harvested or obtained in terms of your income. "Firstfruits" also mean they are the first of our resources. When you get your salary, the first thing to do is to put aside your tithe, 1/10 or 10% for God. We give this tithe to God through the church which uses it to help God's work and to help people know about Jesus.

Tithing is Giving to God

God doesn't need our money because He already owns everything. "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it" Psalm 24:1.

- We give to God first before anything else.
- Being rich or poor does not change the reason we tithe.
- We tithe to thank Him for providing for us.
- Tithe represents God's portion of our income.
- We tithe to remind us that God is the Creator.

Spending, Saving, Giving

- **Plan your spending money** – buy the things you need, not just what you want or desire. Spend wisely on things God approves of and making sure we get good value for our money—a good product for a good price.
- **Develop a monthly budget** – it helps you to organize how to spend a certain amount and spreading your money out for the month so that there is enough.
- **Save up for future use** – "The wise man saves for the future; the foolish man spends whatever he gets" Proverbs 21:20. It is important to save wisely for a specific purpose, such as college, to buy something we need, or to help someone. Saving just so we can

have lots of money is foolish saving. That's hoarding. When we hoard, we don't trust God to take care of us.

- **Get out of debt** – the Apostle Paul tells us to “owe no man anything” Romans 13:8. When we spend money we don't have, we end up borrowing from others. Some lenders add extra charges to lend you. So stay out of debt. Ellen G. White advises us to “shun debt like leprosy.” If we need something we don't have money for now, then it is better for us to learn “delayed gratification”—waiting until you've saved before buying, delaying our pleasure until later.
- **Help those in need** – Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” Acts 20:35. Never forget how blessed we are to have the things we do. When we give to help others, it not only meets others' needs, but it brings joy and happiness to us when we share with others what we have. It is a great way of witnessing for Jesus.
- Give to the sick, the orphans, and widows – God wants us to help these special people and when we are generous in helping them, we will be welcomed by Jesus into His kingdom when He comes again (Matthew 25:35, 36).

2. My Body Temple

The second area that we are to manage well is our body. God gives to each of us a body and we are to keep it strong and healthy and use it to honor God, our Creator.

1 Corinthians 6:19

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you are bought with a price. So glorify God with your body.”

As stewards, we need to practice good health habits!

God is our Creator; therefore, we belong to Him. He wants us to take care of our bodies, just as we take of the beautiful world that He created for us to enjoy. When we practice good health habits, we will be able to keep our bodies in good working order. Our good health habits can also be a way to witness to others and to draw other people to Jesus.

Exercise Regularly

Our bodies need exercise to keep it strong and healthy. You need to play outside in the fresh air and sunshine as much as possible. You need to breathe deeply. You need to exercise your muscles from your head to your toes every day. It is recommended by doctors that you exercise:

- 4-5 days per week
- 30 minutes each day

Eat Healthful Foods in the Food Pyramid

We need to eat grains, fruits, and vegetables. We put gasoline into the car so that it will go where we want it to go. Food is our body's "gasoline." You need to put good food into your body so that your body will do what you want it to do.

Plenty of Water and Rest

Your body also requires clean fresh water and sufficient rest to keep it running properly. So doctors recommend:

- 8 cups of water per day
- Average 8-9 hours of sleep per day

AVOID:

As a good steward you will not put harmful things into your body. Remember to AVOID:

- Alcohol
- Smoking
- Drugs

3. Talents and Abilities

Do you have talents? Do you have abilities? God has given each of us many talents. Some of you have one, while others have three or even five. Our talents and gifts are not given to make us proud. We are to use our talents for the Lord.

Talents and abilities

Paul's letters to the Romans (Romans 12:4-8) and to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 12:4-12) mentions that God has given to each of us different talents and abilities called spiritual gifts. These gifts include:

- Teaching
- Service
- Preaching
- Generosity
- Evangelism

There are other talents and gifts like creative expression, artistic talents, musical abilities like singing and playing musical instruments, hospitality, and many others that God has given to us. Try to identify what your gifts are.

God Gave Us Talents and Abilities

- To bless others

- To serve others
- To inspire others

1 Peter 4:10

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”

4. Time Management

Where did time come from? Time was created by God. The Bible tells that to God, a thousand years seems like a day, and a day seems like a thousand years (2 Peter 3:8). Our life is affected by time which keeps moving forward with one thing happening after the other. We cannot move backward, and we cannot jump ahead of the present.

The Bible definitely confirms this view. It says time has a beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1), and a definite end, when Jesus returns. At that time the old heaven and earth will pass away, and a new heaven and earth will be created in their place (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21).

God has given every one of us the same amount of time – 24 hours a day. He wants us to use it in service for Him and for others. Time is one of our greatest treasures and is never to be wasted. Once time passes, it’s gone for good. Therefore it is important to make the most of our time while we still have it by managing it wisely, starting with the little bits of time: hours, minutes, and seconds.

Get the Big Rocks in First

Illustration: A professor put a large glass container on the table in front of his class. He pulled out three large rocks and put them in the jar. “Is this jar full?” he asked the class. “Yes,” someone replied. The professor bent down and picked up some smaller rocks. He dumped them into the jar, and they filled the spaces around the big rocks “And now?” “Yes?” someone said again, but this time he wasn’t so sure. Then the professor pulled out some even smaller rocks and sprinkled them inside the jar. They filled up the spaces between the large and medium-sized rocks.

“How about now?” he asked the class. But they were catching on. “The spaces where the little rocks can fit are full,” someone said. The professor smiled, pulled a bag of sand, and poured it into the jar until it was full. “Now,” he said, “Can anyone guess what this object lesson was supposed to teach?” Can you guess?”

The big rocks stood for the most important things in our day, the medium rocks for things that are a bit less important, the small rocks for things less important still, and the sand for

things that are least important of all. If we don't get the big rocks in first, the jar will get so full of smaller rocks and sand that we won't be able to get them in later on.

Remember when you are planning your day and your life; get the Big Rocks in first. Get the important things done first which includes spending time with God, family, and friends, working, studying, etc. Once these important things are done, there's nothing wrong with relaxing and having fun. The key is to manage your time so that you always have enough for both work and play.

Sabbath is a Special time with Jesus – 1/7

We all need time to work, play, worship, learn, rest, and to serve others. Sabbath is a special time, for God has reserved this day for Himself and man. He knew that man needed a special time to reflect on His wonderful creation and to develop a closer relationship with God the Father and Jesus the Son.

God's Ten Commandments said, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord," Exodus 20:8-10. We spend the Sabbath by going to church to worship God, go on nature walks to enjoy His creation, and reach out to serve others.

God Gave Us 24 Hours a Day

- Work
- Play
- Learn
- Help others
- Rest
- Worship

Balance your Time!

- Don't get hooked on electronic gadgets! Today, too many children and young people are hooked onto the computer playing games, chatting with friends on Facebook, My Space, Twitter, or watching long hours of television. Balance your time!

Cares for Your Environment

- **Clean up trash** – do not leave things lying out in the yard. Pick up garbage when you see them and do not litter.
- **Use recycled materials** – did you know that the plastic that people throw away will be sitting around, littering the earth, for hundreds of years at least? The less plastic we produce and throw away, the cleaner the earth will be. So a good way is to use materials that can be recycled or made of materials that have already been recycled.

- **Respect property and keep them clean** – wash and keep your house and the surroundings clean. Maybe your Pathfinder’s Club, Sabbath School class, or school can adopt a road; and you can keep this road clean and neat when you help pick up trash and broken glass.

Cares for the Environment

- Care for God’s creatures – do not hurt them or hunt them down.
- Help care for the earth, plants and flowers – plant beautiful flowers for enjoyment. Do not simply pluck flowers or destroy them. You can give these flowers to cheer up the sick in the hospital.
- Help people from other countries who are in disasters

Be Jesus’ Good Stewards