

Stewardship Learning Activity: Good and Faithful Servants

Time: 30-45 minutes

Activity Objective

To explore the 12 qualities of stewardship and their practice in our lives

Supplies and Preparation Needed

- a large sheet (about 6 feet long and 3 feet wide) of butcher paper for each group
- markers
- copy of the handout, *Good and Faithful Servants*, one or two per table

Activity Plan

1. Invite each table group to trace a physical outline of their smallest group member onto the butcher paper (i.e., that person lies down on the paper and someone carefully traces around him/her). Tell them to give their "person" a name that has something to do with "Good and Faithful Servant".
2. [spoken text] Explain the activity in these or your own words:

There are many ways to explore stewardship, but one way is through the image of 12 gardens which describe 12 different qualities of stewardship. After you read and talk about "each garden" on your handout "Good and Faithful Servants", you are to draw a symbol somewhere on your "good and faithful servant" that describes a value or practice that represents that garden. For example, one of the gardens is "soul" – perhaps you give the person a heart that has written on it "open" to symbolize a life of prayer, and so on. Make sure you talk about the garden before you draw the symbol, and complete the symbol before moving on to the next quality of stewardship.

Facilitator(s): here are some more examples if you need them.

- a) *Soul – Call to cultivate a prayer life (heart with "open" on it)*
- b) *Arts – Listen to, read, and watch the best in books, music, movies, theatre, artwork, radio, and television (eyes and ears, with music in the ears, pictures of nature in the eyes)*

- c) *Mind – Keep learning (brain full of book titles and some question marks)*
- d) *History – Know and value the things of the past; keep lessons of history fresh in the mind (clock by the heart, list some important historical dates in the brain)*
- e) *Technology – Use technology for good purposes (put a blackberry or cell phone in one hand)*
- f) *Politics – Be politically aware, be an informed and involved citizen, and vote; attend community meetings (put a newspaper in one hand)*
- g) *Emotions – Aim for a balance emotionally; work at being in good humor (have laughter coming out of the mouth, or draw laugh wrinkles around the eyes)*
- h) *Planet – Care for the environment; recycle, don't waster natural resources (place on the feet recycled plastics/rubber sneakers)*
- i) *Decisions – Make well informed choices, work toward understanding and consensus, keep the vision and mission of Jesus in mind*
- j) *Money – Use financial resources well; do set and keep a budget; set spending limits; ask how much money is enough (place a wallet in the pocket, with three "bills"/bill tabs sticking out-food, clothes, helping the poor)*
- k) *Relationships – Take the time to nurture relationships with those important to you (draw the shape of someone else, even a partial one, e.g., of a hand, beside your person)*
- l) *Get proper nutrition, exercise, and rest, and avoid chemical abuse, smoking, and obesity (in the stomach draw vegetables and fruit)*

3. Once each table group has created their person, invite them to introduce the person to another table group and share their person's "decorations/clothing".

4. Conclusion: as a large group, invite learners to share if they were surprised or challenged by any of the gardens.

Good and Faithful Servants

There are many ways to explore stewardship, but one way is through the image of the 12 gardens which describe 12 different qualities of stewardship. After you talk about each garden, draw a symbol somewhere on your “good and faithful servant” that describes a value or practice that represents that garden. For example, one of the gardens is “soul” – perhaps you give the person a heart that has the word “open” written on it to symbolize a life of prayer. Make sure you talk about the garden before you draw the symbol, completing the symbol before moving on to the next garden.

The 12 Gardens of Stewardship

- a) Soul – Call to cultivate a prayer life.
- b) Arts – Listen to, read, and watch the best in books, music, movies, theatre, artwork, radio, and television.
- c) Mind – Keep learning.
- d) History – Know and value the things of the past; keep lessons of history fresh in the mind.
- e) Technology – Use technology for good purposes.
- f) Politics – Be politically aware, be an informed and involved citizen, and vote; attend community meetings.
- g) Emotions – Aim for a balance emotionally; work at being in good humor.
- h) Planet – Care for the environment; recycle, don’t waste natural resources.
- i) Decisions – Make well-informed choices, work toward understanding and consensus, keep the vision and mission of Jesus in mind.
- j) Money – Use financial resources well. Set and keep a budget. Set spending limits. Ask how much money is enough.
- k) Relationships – Take the time to nurture relationships with those important to you.
- l) Get proper nutrition, exercise, and rest, and avoid chemical abuse, smoking, and obesity.