



**SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM
FOR THE SERMON PREACHED: OCTOBER 30, 2016
TITLE: PASSIONATELY PURSUING GOD IN STEWARDSHIP
PASSAGE: MATTHEW 25:14-30**

1. At the beginning of the sermon, what was Pastor Kevin's definition of 'stewardship'? Would you add anything to that definition? If so, what would you add? What are the things God has given to you in your life to steward well? (Challenge: Don't settle for a list of 2 or 3 things; list as many things as you can think of that you have been called to steward.)

2. If spiritual disciplines are "the things we do for the sake of growing in who we are," then why is it important to consider stewardship as a spiritual discipline? What are the most common barriers for you in living as though EVERYTHING you have is God's and not yours? Is there complaining or jealousy in your heart over things you don't have that you need to address?

3. Read the following passages and identify what belongs to God:
 - (A) **Deuteronomy 8:18:**
 - (B) **Leviticus 25:23:**
 - (C) **1 Corinthians 6:19-20:**
 - (D) **Haggai 2:8:**
 - (E) **Psalms 104:24:**
 - (F) **Psalms 24:1:**
 - (G) **Romans 11:36:**

4. The third servant responded in a way that was not pleasing to the Master (**Matthew 25:24-28**). It serves as a warning about "the holes we dig" when it comes to the way we steward God's possessions. Which "hole" do you identify with most? How will you make sure you don't continue to dig that hole?

5. Read the following passages and identify what we need to steward well. How does the Bible say we must use these things?

(A) **Ephesians 5:15-17:**

(B) **2 Corinthians 8:1-7; 9:6-9:**

(C) **1 Peter 4:10-11:**

6. Based on your findings in the previous question, are you stewarding these three things in the way God's word says you should? Knowing we all have room for growth, and we are all being sanctified by the grace of Jesus Christ, what are some specific changes you can make this week in the way you steward these things in your life?
7. Of the 4 main points in the message, in which do you find the most freedom? Why? Which do you find to be the greatest struggle? Why? How will you move from 'struggle' to 'freedom' in the hard areas?
1. I acknowledge that Jesus owns it all (v14-15)
 2. I urgently use what He's given me (v16-18)
 3. I serve Him because I love Him (v19-28)
 4. I realize my ultimate accountability is to Jesus Christ (v29-30)
8. "Fruitfulness in my life springs from the deep roots of my love for God." Why is it important to understand that my fruitfulness for the Lord flows directly from my love for him? What are some dangers we face if we don't see this connection? As you read **John 15:1-17**, what are some things Jesus says about my fruitfulness being directly connected to my love for him?
9. Do you know how you have been gifted to serve by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ? How are you stewarding that gift within the body? If you are not, what steps do you need to take – in light of the reality that Jesus Christ is coming soon – to start using that gift right away?