



spiritual adult

DISCIPLE ME

TRACK 1: DISCOVERING YOUR GIFTS

STEWARDSHIP

ICEBREAKER: NOTHING TO WASTE

Before we jump in, let's start with something simple. Think about something you really hate wasting. It could be time, money, food, opportunities, energy – or anything else that comes to mind first. Take a moment to think about what you hate wasting, and share an example of why it bothers you so much.

- What does the way you treat something say about how much you value it?
- How does knowing something matters change the way you handle it day to day?

STUDY: BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

Before we talk about gifts, ability, or influence, we need to talk about ownership. Because at the core, stewardship begins with a simple but challenging truth: **nothing we have actually belongs to us**. Our time, our influence, our skills, our resources - even our opportunities - are entrusted to us, not owned by us.

That's why spiritual maturity isn't measured by how gifted you are, how visible you are, or how impressive your impact looks. It's measured by how faithfully you steward what God has placed in your hands for the good of others. Spiritual adults are used to asking, "Who can help with what God has given me?"

- When you hear the word stewardship, what do you think of?

We often hear the word *stewardship* and immediately think about money - budgets, generosity, giving, and finances. And while Scripture absolutely speaks to how we handle our resources, biblical stewardship is much bigger than a bank account.

In the Bible, stewardship is about **how we manage everything God has entrusted to us** - our time, our talents, and our treasure. It's about how we spend our days, how we use our abilities, and how we leverage our resources for something bigger than ourselves.

READ Romans 12:3-8

- Why do you think Paul starts this passage with humility before he ever talks about gifts?
- Which gift or role in this passage feels most connected to how God has wired you right now?
- How are you currently doing your best with what God has already placed in your hands?

- Who in your life have you noticed is a good steward of what God has given them?

The idea of stewardship runs all the way back to the beginning of Scripture. In Genesis, God places humanity in the garden and gives them responsibility - not to possess it, but to **care for it, cultivate it, and use it wisely.**

Later in the New Testament, the word often translated *steward* comes from the Greek *oikonomos* - a household manager. Someone who was entrusted with what belonged to another, expected to handle it faithfully, and was evaluated not by creativity or charisma, but by **faithfulness.**

ACTIVITY: USE IT OR LOSE IT

For this activity, we are going to look at a number of choices. For each one, you have to pick **one to keep and use**, and the other **one you will lose.** You don't get to ask questions, and you don't get any third options. You just have to choose what you will use and what you will lose.

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Time or Energy | • Rest or Responsibility | • Margin or Momentum |
| • Comfort or Opportunity | • Being Liked or Being Honest | • Depth or Reach |
| • Stability or Growth | • Control or Trust | • Predictability or Possibility |
| • Privacy or Influence | • Familiar or Fruitful | • Security or Calling |
| • Consistency or Flexibility | • Potential or Availability | • Control or Connection |

STUDY: THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

That tension you just felt - choosing between two good things - is at the heart of the Parable of the Talents. It's a story Jesus told about what happens when what's been entrusted to us goes unused. Let's take a look.

READ Matthew 25:14-30

- What do you think the third servant was most afraid of? Do you see that same fear in yourself?
- In this parable, what measurement did the master use to judge if his servants were good stewards?
- If God were to ask, "What did you do with everything I gave you?" - how would you answer honestly today?

CHALLENGE: BUILD SOMEONE UP

This week, ask five people who know you in different areas of your life (family, friends, coworkers, group members) to name two gifts, strengths, or talents they consistently see in you. After you've gathered your list, take time to reflect on it. Look for patterns. Notice what shows up more than once. Then ask yourself honestly: Where am I currently using these gifts to help others and build God's Kingdom - and where am I not? Share your observations with your group at your next gathering.