

**FIVE STEWARDSHIP
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
FOR CHILDREN**

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LESSON 1

Bible Study for Children

Defining Stewardship

–Carole Green–

Bible Passage: Matthew 22:15-22

Memory Verse: Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. Matthew 22:22 (NIV) (Use the translation of your choice.)

Every Sunday School class for children needs a minimum of two teachers. If you have more than 10 children, a ratio of one teacher to every 5 children is desirable. All teachers should plan together for each Sunday's lesson. Each teacher will select a "Beginning Activity" and a "Bible Application" activity to plan and teach. One teacher, usually the department director, will lead the "Large Group Time."

Before the Session

Teachers Preparation

1. Contact each child enrolled in the class. Remind them of the special stewardship lessons beginning this Sunday. Ask them to bring their Bibles.
2. Read today's Bible passage in several different translations. Also read Psalm 24:1 and 50:10-12.
3. Choose a translation for the memory verse, and memorize it yourself.

During the Session

Beginning Activities (10-15 minutes)

(Choose the activities that are appropriate for the children you teach. Have these activities ready and begin when the first child arrives.)

1. Guide the children to look up the words "steward" and "stewardship" in a dictionary. Have them write these definitions on a poster board. Keep these definitions displayed in the room throughout all of the lessons on stewardship. This is the beginning of a "word wall" – each week additional words will be added.
Supplies: Bibles, Bible dictionary, dictionary, poster board or other large piece of paper, markers
2. Let the children make a Bible bookmark on a small piece of cardstock or construction paper. Have them write today's Bible verse on the bookmark and glue a penny (or other coin) to the bookmark. Tell the children that each Sunday in this unit they will have the opportunity to make a bookmark of the Memory Verse as one of the beginning activities. At the end of five weeks they will have a collection.
Supplies: Bibles, 3 inch by 6 inch pieces of cardstock or construction paper, pennies, markers, glue
3. Ask the children to read Psalm 24:1. Prepare a poster that says "The earth is the Lord's" (or let a child do it). Let the children look through old Bible teaching pictures to find

illustrations of this verse. (Use old nature magazines, if no teaching pictures are available.) The poster and pictures can be placed on a bulletin board or wall in the classroom.

Supplies: poster board, markers, old Bible teaching pictures or nature magazines

Large Group Time (15-20 minutes)

- Direct the children's attention to the definitions on the wall. Ask a child to read these definitions. Tell the children that we will be studying what the Bible says about stewardship.
- Ask the children to open their Bibles to today's Memory Verse. Read it together.
- With your Bible open in front of you, read today's passage, or tell it in your own words.

Bible Story

The Pharisees were religious leaders during the time Jesus lived on earth. But they did not accept Him as God or follow His teachings. They were constantly trying to catch Jesus doing something wrong. Our story today begins with the Pharisees planning to trick Jesus into saying something wrong.

The Pharisees sent some of their followers to Jesus along with some other people who were supporters of Herod. These people were called Herodians. Together they went to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we know you are a man of honor. You teach the way of God truthfully. You don't let others tell you what to do or say. You don't care how important they are. Tell us then, what do you think? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not (Matt. 22:16-17, NIV)?"

Jesus heard their question and He also knew of their evil plans to trick Him. He knew that if He said, "no," then the Herodians would report Him to the Roman governor. But if He answered, "yes," the Pharisees would say that He was not loyal to His own Jewish people.

So, He answered them by saying, "You pretenders! Why are you trying to trap me (Matt. 22:18, NIV)?" Then He asked them to show Him a coin that people use for paying their taxes.

Jesus then asked them a question about the coin. He asked them whose picture and words they saw on the coin. The followers of the Pharisees and the Herodians told Him that the picture and words on the coin were Caesar's. Caesar was the leader of the Roman government that ruled the land where Jesus lived.

Jesus then told them to give to Caesar the things that belong to him. In other words, He was telling people that they must pay their taxes to the government. Then He also said that they are to give to God what belongs to God.

Jesus' words were amazing to the people who had asked Him these questions. Rather than ask Him any more questions, they went away.

- If you have one available, show a picture of Jesus talking with the Pharisees. Ask the children what they think Jesus meant by what He said (in Matt. 22:22). Ask them what Jesus would say today if we asked Him that same question.

- Ask the question, “What belongs to God?” Let each child give an answer. Write the answers on a large sheet of paper so that everyone can see it.
- Read, or ask a child to read, Psalm 24:1. Ask the children what it says about the question, “What belongs to God?” Also read Psalm 50:10-12. Discuss these verses as well.
- Summarize this discussion by telling the children that the Bible teaches us that everything belongs to God. Everything that we have really belongs to Him. He is letting us use them. We are stewards of them and should take care of them.
- Sing “He’s Got the Whole Word in His Hands” (*The Baptist Hymnal*, 1991 edition). Let the children use hand motions they already know, or make up motions.
- Lead in a prayer time thanking God for all He has given us. Ask Him to help us remember that everything belongs to Him. Ask His help in caring for His creation.
- Give instructions for Bible Application Activities. Let each teacher briefly explain the activities he/she has selected. Give each child the opportunity to choose an activity.

Bible Application Activities (15-20 minutes)

Choose the activities that are appropriate for your students. Plan for at least two activities, and allow the children to make a choice.

1. Drama – let the children act out the Bible story, using costumes, if available. Videotape the drama, or take still pictures. Show the video or the pictures next Sunday as a way to review this lesson.
Supplies: costumes, video camera, digital camera, or instant print camera
2. Illustrate a song – provide a few copies of *The Baptist Hymnal* (1991 edition). Ask the children to read the words to “Because I Have Been Give Much” on page 605. Allow each child to select one of the stanzas to illustrate. If possible, offer a choice of markers, paints, crayons, or pencils. Display these illustrations on a bulletin board in a church hallway or in the classroom. (Another choice: illustrate the song “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.”)
Supplies: hymnals, construction paper, markers or paints or crayons or pencils
3. A Diary – make an “I Am Thankful” diary to remind the child to pray each day next week. Give each child 6 sheets of paper. At the top of each page have them write a day of the week, Monday – Saturday. On each page they are to draw or write about something that belongs to God for which they are thankful. Children can take them home with them.
Supplies: 8 ½ x 11 inch sheets of paper, markers, pencils, stapler, construction paper for cover

Cleanup and Dismissal