

## LESSON 2

### **Stewardship of Life**

–Kevin Boles–

Focal Passage: Romans 12:1-2

Knowledge Aim: To learn the primary biblical standards for my daily life.

Application Aim: To incorporate biblical standards of living into my daily life.

The stewardship of life deals with two elements: relationship with God and consistency of living. People may give money to their church. If they have never come into a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ they are just givers and not stewards. The relationship precedes everything else. Consistency of living becomes important once the relationship with God has been established. Consistency of living simply means living by Christian standards every moment of our life.

The Point: Youth will understand that being a steward means living for God and trusting Him everyday.

*What's at My Core?*

Before the session:

Post the following statements on tear sheets around the room. As students enter, have them fill in the blanks:

I wish I were ... \_\_\_\_\_.

I'm unhappy with myself because I don't own ... \_\_\_\_\_.

If I only could achieve \_\_\_\_\_, I'd be satisfied.

Things would be just fine if I looked ... \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **1. BEARING THE CROSS**

Relate the following story...

A youth pastor took his senior-high group on a mission trip to Florida. Before they left, he built a cross from railroad ties, put some wheels on it, and made someone responsible for the cross every minute. The cross had to go with the youth group everywhere. If they went out to a restaurant, the cross went, too. If they were on the beach, a student dug it out, and propped it in the sand. The cross became the focus of their week. It was a constant reminder of their purpose. The cross became the core of who they were. At the end of the week, the youth pastor gave each student two nails. One to nail to the cross if they had determined that Jesus, and the cross, would be the focus of their lives, and one to keep as a reminder. You can bet those students never forgot that trip or hauling that cross around. They also remember the lesson of keeping Christ as the focus of all they do.

**Say:**

Review some of the answers listed to the opening statements. After responses, tell students that you hope that exercise helped them understand the fact that what we achieve or own or how we look doesn't determine who we are. Because of what Christ did on the cross, we have every reason to celebrate who we are in Him. And that is enough!

**Ask:**

What is at the core of who you are?

What kinds of things compete for your core?

## **2. REFLECTING THE CROSS**

**Ask and discuss:**

What is your role in life? Who are you?

(Possible responses might include: *I'm Bob and Sharon's son; I'm Cindy's brother; I'm the quarterback; I play the trumpet in the band; etc.*)

Do friends and family think of you in light of who you are or the role you play in life?

Do you realize that a large part of who you are, or your identity, is the fact that you are created in the image of God?

Call on a student to read Psalm 139:13-14

Think about all the “stuff” you have in your room. How much do you think it’s all worth?

Does the fact that you wear a shirt that says “Abercrombie & Fitch” identify you in any way?

As you think about your identity in Christ, consider this. Does your lifestyle prove beyond a reasonable doubt that you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ?

What you have achieved or what you own doesn’t determine who you are. Even without all the “stuff” in your room, you have a unique identity in Christ. You are a person of worth because God says so! (Ephesians 1:4)

What are some of the unique contributions you have to make to life? (List responses)(Possible responses might include: *I'm a good listener; I'm a good friend; I get along with people*)

Unlike possessions or accomplishments, these kinds of investments in God’s Kingdom are things that last.

Call on a volunteer to read Psalm 139:16. This passage of scripture reminds us that God knows how we use the “stuff” we have been given and what kind of steward we are of these. How does this make you feel when you realize this?

How does the use of your “stuff” demonstrate that you belong to Christ?

As the group leader, give a brief testimony about how you came to know Christ as personal Lord and Savior. Be sure to relate how being a Christian is more than just carrying a Bible and wearing Christian t-shirts...it’s a way of life.

How concerned do you think God is with the details of your life?

## **3. THE 24/7 STEWARD**

Living a life of stewardship means that God is concerned with all the details of our lives, even the “stuff” that’s in our room. And the time we spend in studying God’s Word, in prayer, and with our families reflects who we are in Christ. God wants the very best for you and your life.

One of the chief benefits of being a Christian is having access to God’s resources, including hope. Hope is much more than positive thinking or believing that your future will be smooth as silk. Hebrews 11:32-40 talks about some people who were able to endure much suffering-not because everything worked out well for them, but because they were so deeply rooted in hope.

Even if allegiance to Christ cost them their lives, they knew God's causes would ultimately triumph. That's biblical hope!