

# Year Round Stewardship Tools for Planning



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**Salt For All Seasons**  
**Twenty Ideas for Stewardship Awareness**

Selected from *Salt for All Seasons*

1. Recognize the gifts and abilities of all members regularly
2. Express gratitude for all volunteers annually
3. Keep the “mission” more visible than “money”
4. Write a clear description for each ministry task to be performed
5. Update Time and Talent sheets or Gift Inventories and put the findings to use.
6. Write monthly stewardship articles for the newsletter
7. Include a bulletin insert on a specific ministry monthly
8. Teach stewardship principles in Sunday school and adult education
9. Don't be afraid to talk about “money” in church
10. Pray about your personal stewardship
11. Provide each household with a quarterly financial report
12. Encourage the practice of tithing and proportionate giving
13. Introduce new members to your congregation's stewardship practices at the new member orientation
14. Celebrate God's earth with regular work days or an environmental project
15. Conduct year-round stewardship education and an annual commitment effort
16. Have a “ministry faire” each year to highlight the ministries the church supports
17. Have a guest speaker each quarter from a ministry your congregation supports
18. Participate in area ministry, synod or ELCA churchwide stewardship activities
19. Encourage members to respond to God's love, not to a budget, debt or guilt
20. Educate each member to have a will and include the church in their bequests

**Salt For All Seasons – Education/Awareness  
Quotes, Thoughts and Faith Reflections**

*Selected from Salt for All Seasons*

Stewardship is everything we do after we say I believe

**Clarence Stoughton**

“Every Christian goes through three conversions, first, the heart; then the head; and finally the purse.”

**Martin Luther**

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

Have you been more on the giving end or receiving end of things this week?

There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life-happiness, freedom and peace of mind - are always attained by giving them to someone else.

**Peyton Conway March**

How is it that after decades of inventions and new technologies devoted to saving time and labor, the result is that there is not time left?

***Money and the Meaning of Life***  
**Jacob Needleman**

All the difficulties and troubles we meet in life are due to the desire for superfluous things. When we seek unnecessary things, we have difficulty in finding that which is indispensable.

***The Guide for the Perplexed***  
**Moses Maimonides**

Money can buy almost anything we want - the problem being that we tend to want only the things money can buy.

***Money and the Meaning of Life***  
**Jacob Needleman**

Money can solve almost any problem, but the solution never lasts.

***Money and the Meaning of Life***  
**Jacob Needleman**

Gain all you can, save all you can, give all you can.

**John Wesley**

If all I had was money, I would be a poor person indeed.

**Anonymous, 1997**

Some people are magnetic --- everything they own is charged.

If you roll up your sleeves, you won't lose your shirt.

A person too busy to take care of their health is like a mechanic too busy to take care of his tools.

Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else.

Not doing more than the average is what keeps the average down.

Better a pebble given out of love than a diamond given out of duty.

What a different world this would be if people would listen to those who know more and not merely try to get something from those who have more.

If your business keeps you so busy that you have no time for anything else, there must be something wrong, either with you or with your business.

Don't be afraid to go "out on a limb" -- that is where the fruit is.

Giving is an expression of one's faith. It reveals how much God is in one's life.

**Carl Gilck**

Financial stewardship is basic to all we do for our Lord. It furnishes the fuel for our ministries.

Tithing is not giving, tithing is returning

A Christian steward does not dedicate time, talent and treasure that they may become Gods, but because they are God's,

Gratitude must be the motivation for all-Christian giving.

God's purpose is that all persons, created in his image, are to be channels by and through which the benefits of God are poured out to others.

God's stewardship is best realized at the manger, then on to the cross, then to the empty tomb, then the special coming of the Holy Spirit.

Remove stewardship teaching from the New Testament and you leave the gospel in rags and tatters.

The thrill and joy of sacrificial Christian giving can be taught, caught and experienced.

God is infinitely more real when we put money in an envelope.

Determine your proportionate giving in the shadow of the cross and you will not go far amiss.

Christians have no conception of what they are missing, in terms of enjoyment and enrichment, until they have learned to give on God's terms.

"Money never stays with me. It would burn me if it did. I throw it out of my hands as soon as possible, lest it should find its way into my heart."

**John Wesley**

## **Salt For All Seasons - Education Passages Related to Money, Possessions, Attitudes, Uses, Etc.**

Selected from *Salt for All Seasons*

## **OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES**

- Proverbs 3:9            *Honor the Lord with your substance – and with the first fruits of all your produce.*
- Proverbs 23: 4-5        *Do not toil to acquire wealth; be wise enough to desist. When your eyes light upon it, it is gone, for suddenly it takes to itself wings.*
- Ecclesiastes 5            *(10) He who loves money will not be satisfied with money; nor he who loves wealth, with gain; (13) There is grievous evil which I have seen under the sun; riches where kept by their owner to their hurt. (19) Every man also to who God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and find enjoyment in his toil – this is the gift of God.*
- Proverbs 10:15          *A rich man's wealth is his strong city.*
- Proverbs 11:28          *He who trust in his riches will wither but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.*
- Proverbs 11: 4            *Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.*
- Proverbs 28:20          *A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.*
- Proverbs 30: 8-9        *Give me neither poverty nor riches – feed me with the food that is needful for me – lest I be full and deny thee, and say who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor, and steal , and profane in the name of my God.*
- Genesis 28:22            *And this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that thou givest me I will give the tenth to thee.*
- I Chronicles 29:16        *O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building thee a house for thy holy name comes from thy hand and is all thy own.*
- Malachi 3: 8-10        *Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say how are we robbing thee? In your tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.*

## **NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES**

Luke 12: 13ff Parable of the Rich Fool  
Luke 10:29ff Parable of the Good Samaritan  
Luke 16:19ff Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus  
Luke 18:18ff Parable of the Rich Young Ruler  
Luke 19:11ff Parable of the Pounds  
Luke 16:1-15 Parable of the Unrighteous Steward  
Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of the Talents  
Mark 12:41ff The Widow's Mite

I Timothy 6:6-11 *But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, man of God, flee from all this and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.*

I Timothy 6:17-19 *Commend those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

Matthew 6:25-34 *(31) So do not worry, saying 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we wear?' (33) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

Matthew 25:31-46 *(40) The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'*

### **DIRECT COMMENTS REGARDING MONEY AND POSSESSIONS**

Matthew 6:19-21 *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth or rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

Matthew 8:20 *And Jesus said to him, foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head.*

Matthew 10:8 *Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give with pay. Freely you have received, freely give.*

Matthew 13:22 *As for what was sown among thorns, this is he who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the delight in riches choke the word and it*

*proves unfruitful.*

- Luke 12:48b *Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required and of him to whom men commit much they will demand more.*
- Acts 20:35b *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*
- Luke 3:11 *And he answered them, he who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.*
- Luke 6:24 & 38 *(24) But woe to you that are rich, for you have received your consolation (38) Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you will give will be the measure you will get back.*
- Luke 14:33 *So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.*
- Luke 16:14-15 *The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all this and they scoffed at him. But he said to them, you are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts for what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.*
- 1 Corinthians 16:2 *On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper...*
- 1 Corinthians 8:13-14 *I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but as a matter of equality, your abundance at the present time should supply their want, so that their abundance may supply your want and there may be equality.*
- II Corinthians 9:7-8 *Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything, and may provide in abundance for every good work.*
- II Corinthians 9:11 *You will be enriched in every way for great generosity.*
- Ephesians 4:28 *Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need.*
- Romans 12:13 *Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality.*
- Philippians 2:4 *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

Philippians 4:11-13 *I am not talking about a shortage of money; I have learned to manage on whatever I have. I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything, anywhere, full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty; there is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength.*

Hebrews 13:5 *Keep your life free from the love of money and be content with what you have.*

I John 3:17-18: *But if any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deeds in truth.*

### **INDIRECTLY RELATED TO POSSESSIONS AND THEIR USE**

Colossians 3:2 *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

I Thessalonians 3:12 *And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all men, as we do for you.*

II Thessalonians 3:13 *Brethren, do not be weary in well doing.*

Titus 3:14 *And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.*

I John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world or the things of the world. If any one loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

## **Salt for All Seasons – Earthkeeping Skit**

Selected from *Salt for All Seasons*

## GOD'S GARDEN

GOD: St. Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there in the USA. What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply abundantly. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But it is so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It is temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably makes grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it, sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? It is a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No, sir-just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and save them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It is a natural circle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You had better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you are in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: "Dumb and Dumber," Lord. It is a real stupid movie about.....

GOD: Never mind. I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

## Salt for All Season – Education

### Children Sermon All Gifts Come From God

Preparation: *Prepare a colorful gift bag or wrapped box with a removable lid. Place in your package items that represent some of the many gifts God has given us for pleasure and the fulfillment of our needs.*

**Message:** Good morning! I'd like to invite the children to come forward to share a gift with me today.

How many of you have received a gift?  
How did you feel when you were given a gift?

When we get a gift, it makes us happy because we know that someone else cares about us and wants to do good things for us. Many people love and care for us, but no one can love us as much as God does. Because God loves us so much, He has given us more gifts than we could ever count. Let's look in the gift I brought today to see some of the gifts God has given us.

*(Be creative. Some of the endless ideas might include:*

*A colorful leaf or flower – The gift of beauty in creation  
A picture of parents or grandparents – The gift of family  
A small plastic dog – The gift of pets and animals  
An apple – The gift of food*

*Pull out one item at a time and ask the children to name the gift of God that is represented. What other gifts can the children name?)*

All of the gifts we have talked about are good things that God has given to show how much He loves us. But, I have saved the very best gift of all of last.

*(Bring the Baby Jesus from a crèche out of the bag or box.)*

Who is this?

You're right! The very best gift ever given is the gift God gave us when he sent his son, Jesus, to take away our sins and allow us to be in heaven forever with God. Just the same way we say "thank you" when someone gives us a present, we should remember to say thank you every day for all our gifts from God, especially for the gift of Jesus.

Let's pray together: "Thank you God for loving us and sending us many good gifts. Every day, I want to thank you the most for Jesus. Amen."

## **Children Sermon We All Need To Work Together**

Preparation: *Put together a collection of real or children's tools to illustrate the story you will tell. To follow this script, you will need a hammer, screwdriver, ruler, sandpaper and saw.*

**Message:** Good morning! I'd like the children to come forward to share a story with me today.

Do you remember that Jesus was a carpenter? I'd like to share a legend with you about some of the tools in Jesus carpentry shop. The story goes like this: After Jesus died and then rose again, he went back to his Father in heaven. The tools he left behind saw that Jesus was gone and called a meeting.

**(HOLD UP THE HAMMER)** The hammer wanted to be in charge, but the other tools thought he was too noisy. "Well," said Hammer, "If I have to be quiet, so does Sister Screwdriver. You have to turn her around and around again to get her to accomplish anything."

**(HOLD UP THE SCREWDRIVER)** "Oh, my", said Sister Screwdriver. "I wasn't going to say anything, but I really must point out that it's Brother Sandpaper who has a lot of problems. He is so rough and is always rubbing people the wrong way."

**(HOLD UP THE SANDPAPER)** "Well, at least I get some work done", said Brother Sandpaper. "That Brother Ruler should also be asked to withdraw. He is always measuring folks as though he were the only one who is right."

In the middle of all this loud discussion, in walked the Risen Carpenter of Nazareth. He started his work of making a pulpit from which to tell the Good News story of salvation. He used the hammer, the screwdriver, the sandpaper, the ruler and all the other tools in the toolbox. After Jesus' pulpit was finished, Sister Saw (**HOLD UP SAW**) said, "Brothers and Sisters, I see that all of us are needed and are workers together with the Lord."

All the people in God's church are like the tools in Jesus' toolbox. We are all special and can do different things. It is part of God's good plan that we are not all alike. All our lives, we should be looking for what kind of tool God wants us to be to help him build a strong church. God needs each one of us and we are all different, but important, tools. Let's remember to thank God for making us all different and for giving us each a job to do!

## **Children Sermon Sharing Our Blessings**

**Preparation:** Have a bag or box with 10 –20 small bags. In all but two bags have 10 pieces of wrapped candy. There should be two small bags without candy.

**Message :** Good Morning ! Would the children please come forward.  
( *Pause ... Sit down with children around you* )

How many of you like candy?  
(*Pause ... Put one in your mouth*)

The children in Jesus' time did not have much candy.  
( *Pause ... Put another one in your mouth* )

What should I do with this candy?  
( *Pause ... Put another one in your mouth* )

Oh ... would you like some? ( *Pause* )

Let me see. I have some in small bags. Who would like one? ( *Pause* )

Oh, I see the last bags are empty. What should we do? ( *Pause* )

Let's count how many pieces each of you have in your bag. ( *Pause* )

How many do you count? .... Oh, 10.

What would the Bible suggest we should do? ( *Pause* )

Let's each take one piece of candy from your bag and put it in the empty bag.

How many do you have left? 9

How many are in the bag? 9

The Bible teaches us to share our blessings with others. The Old Testament asks that we share one-tenth with God, just like we shared 1 piece of candy from each bag. And, we will still have plenty left.

Now remember, be sure to share this candy with your parents.

Thank You!

Please return to your seats.