

Diocese of Davenport, Iowa
Self-Study of U.S. Bishop's Pastoral Letter
Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

The primary document for this study is *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, Tenth Anniversary Edition, USCCB Publishing, Publication No. 5-465, ISBN 1-57455-5-465-4.

A paperback copy may be purchased for \$9.95 (plus shipping) from USCCB Publishing at <http://store.usccb.org>. A PDF of the document can be found among the Stewardship Resources on the Diocese of Davenport website. Visit www.davenportdiocese.org/stewardship

Purpose:

- Assist individuals to grow in their understanding of stewardship
- Develop leaders who will foster stewardship as a way of life in the Diocese of Davenport
- Celebrate 25th anniversary of the pastoral letter

Process:

- May be completed individually or in a small group format. Accomplished at your own pace—in as little as one day or over a number of weeks.
- Participants read and reflect on a passage of scripture for each study session.
- Participants read and reflect on the six sections of the pastoral letter.
- Participants share reflections with members of their small group (if applicable) and send written reflections for all six sessions to [stewardship.diodav@gmail](mailto:stewardship.diodav@gmail.com) (or mail hardcopy to Director of Stewardship at address below). **Be sure to give your name, mailing address, phone number, and name of parish.**

Support:

- Office of Stewardship—Diocese of Davenport
- Diocese of Davenport Stewardship Commission

Facilitator:

Dan R. Ebener, Director of Stewardship
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The parish of everyone who completes the self-study and returns reflections for all 6 sessions by June 1, 2018 will be entered into a drawing for a basket loaded with current stewardship materials (includes copies of the 1992 pastoral letter). Don't miss this exciting opportunity to win a supply of "how to" resources for your parish.

Study Sessions

SESSION 1: STEWARDSHIP—THE CHALLENGE AND THE CHOICE

Scripture: Read Genesis Chapter 1, Story of Creation

Scripture Reflection Questions:

1. What is the point of this creation story, or what do you think the author wants the reader to take from this account of creation? (HINT: What phrase is repeated throughout the story?)
2. What about the creation story makes it a valuable stewardship scripture?

Write a short 1-2 paragraph response to either question above.

Pastoral: Read the Preface and Introduction

Spend some time reflecting on the study questions that follow the Introduction. Write a short 1-2 paragraph reflection on ONE key question that stands out for you.

Share your reflections from Session 1 with your small group.

SESSION 2: THE CALL

Scripture: Read John 1:35-50, Calling of the Disciples

Scripture Reflection Questions:

1. This is a study on stewardship. So why have you been given a reading on discipleship?
2. Comment on how the words “Come, see for yourself.” are important to learning about stewardship.

Write a short 1-2 paragraph response to either question above.

Pastoral: Read Chapter One, The Call

Spend some time reflecting on the study questions that follow Chapter 1. Write a short 1-2 paragraph reflection on ONE key question that stands out for you.

Share your reflections from Session 2 with your small group.

SESSION 3: JESUS’ WAY

Scripture: Read Matthew 25:14-30, Parable of the Talents

Scripture Reflection Question:

1. You have what you have. Moreover, how much or how little you have really isn’t the question. So then, what is (are) the question(s)? Write a short 1-2 paragraph response.

Pastoral: Read Chapter Two, Jesus’ Way

Spend some time reflecting on the study questions that follow Chapter 2. Write a short 1-2 paragraph reflection on ONE key question that stands out for you.

Share your reflections from Session 3 with your small group.

SESSION 4: LIVING AS A STEWARD

Scripture: Read Acts 2:1-47, Communal Life

Scripture Reflection Question:

1. These are very familiar scriptures. Using your knowledge of stewardship and discipleship, what particular words, phrases, sections of this scripture relate to both 'stewardship' and 'discipleship'? Write a short reflection explaining why you think so.

Pastoral: Read Chapter Three, Living as a Steward

Spend some time reflecting on the study questions that follow Chapter 3. Write a short 1-2 paragraph reflection on ONE key question that stands out for you.

Share your reflections from Session 4 with your small group.

SESSION 5: STEWARDS OF THE CHURCH

Scripture: Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly

Scripture Reflection Questions:

1. What do you first think of/about when reading this scripture?
2. What prevents many from living the teaching of this scripture?
3. What prevents you from living the teaching of this scripture? Explain.

Write a short 1-2 paragraph response to one of the above questions.

Pastoral: Read Chapter Four, Stewards of the Church

Spend some time reflecting on the study questions that follow Chapter 4. Write a short 1-2 paragraph reflection on ONE key question that stands out for you.

Share your reflections from Session 5 with your small group.

SESSION 6: THE CHRISTIAN STEWARD

Scripture: Read Luke 12:32-46, Where your treasure is, there will your heart be

Scripture Reflection Questions:

1. This scripture begins with the words, *"Do not live in fear, little flock. It has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom."* Why do so many still live in fear? In fear of what?
- 2 *"It will go well with those servants whom the master finds wide awake on his return."* This passage certainly means something different than hoping not to die in your sleep. To what are we to be wide-awake? What does the scripture mean?

Write a short 1-2 paragraph response to either question above.

Pastoral: Read Chapter Five, The Christian Steward

Reflect on Chapter 5 using the following questions. (No questions are given in the document itself).

1. Why do we speak of stewardship as a lifestyle?
2. Give an insight that you have obtained from *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*.
3. Name or describe some important gifts that you have received from God. As a good steward of these gifts, what is your action?

Write a short 1-2 paragraph reflection on ONE key question from above that stands out for you. Share your reflections from Session 6 with your small group.

Send written reflections for all six sessions to [stewardship.diodav@gmail](mailto:stewardship.diodav@gmail.com)

Return by June 1, 2018 and include your name, mailing address, phone number, and name of your parish to be entered into the drawing for a basket of current stewardship materials. Delivery to the parish office included.