

Stewardship: Living simply, sharing joyfully

Icebreaker

What's the best present you've ever been given? Or, what's the best present you've ever given someone?

Worship

Depending on what your group feel comfortable with, read aloud Psalm 24, or sing Be Thou My Vision and/or I Will Offer Up My Life.

Word

How do the values of our society affect our attitude to money, possessions, how we spend our time, and our aim in life?

Read 1 Chronicles 29: 10-18

- The passage preceding this tells of the sacrificial giving of King David and the Israelite leaders to build the Temple. Why did they give so much, and so joyfully?
- If everything comes from God (vs 12, 14, 16) and belongs to God (vs 11 and 16), how should that affect our attitude and use of our money, possessions, time, & talents?

How do society's values and priorities affect creation? (eg. greed, consumption, waste)

Read Romans 11:33 to 12:2

- Why is Paul urging the Romans to offer their bodies as living sacrifices to God? (response to God's greatness and generosity)
- Living in a way that cares for God's creation, and giving generously both involve sacrifices. These sacrifices can be hard, especially as they may go against what society tells us we need/deserve. What can help us live as living sacrifices to God, not conformed to the pattern of this world?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-2

- How can we make sure our giving and the sacrifices we make to care for creation are joyful?

World

Spend some time completing the **Stewardship Quiz** (given out in Church this Sunday and on the resources section of our website), if you haven't already.

When you have completed the questions, prayerfully consider and discuss what changes God may be calling you to make, to better care for His creation, and steward the gifts he has given you. Write down the changes you plan to make immediately, and over the next 6 months, at the end of the quiz.

Share the changes you plan to make with the group, and pray for each other as you seek to be increasingly courageous for Christ in these areas of your life. Ask one or two people to follow up with you in a few months time to ask if you have made any changes.

The fourth verse of Be Thou My Vision has the words:

*Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.*

You may like to say these words together, and pray that they will become increasingly true for each of you.