

SPECIAL LESSON

Bible Study: The Sunday of the Steward – A Life of Service is Discipleship

Bible Study Preparation and Materials Needed:

Reflecting on: The Parable of the Shrewd Steward

Scripture Reading: *Luke 16:1-13 (The Parable of the Shrewd Steward)*

Passages and Verses Used in this Bible Study

Luke 16:10: *“Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and whoever is dishonest in very little is also dishonest in much.”*

John 13:15: *“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you”*

Matthew 25:40: *“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*

Memory Verse:

**“I have set you an example
that you should do as I have done for you.”**

John 13:15

Bible Study Lesson

Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՝ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos, ee paneets yev kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

A Reflection on the parable of the Shrewd Steward

This Sunday we remember the Sunday of the Steward. The answer to why this is important and why we remember it lies within the deep meaning of the parable Jesus told about the Unjust Stewart. This is a story of a steward who mis-managed his master's property. When he realized he is about to lose his position, he quickly came up with a plan—he reduced the debts of his master's debtors so that they will welcome him later, when he is removed from his position. Surprisingly, the master commends this steward for his cleverness, even though he had been dishonest.

Scripture Reading: Luke 16:1-13 (*The Parable of the Shrewd Steward*)

At first, this parable can seem confusing. Why would Jesus use the example of a dishonest man? The key to understanding this story is recognizing the urgency and wisdom the steward used in preparing for his future. Jesus is not praising dishonesty, but the steward's resourcefulness in using his position wisely while he still had time. With this parable Jesus teaches an important lesson: *"Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and whoever is dishonest in very little is also dishonest in much."* (Luke 16:10)

Another significant lesson we learn from this parable is to consider how we are using the time, talents, and resources God has entrusted to us. Are we using them selfishly, or are we managing them in a way that serves God and others? This brings us to the concept of stewardship to discipleship.

Being a disciple of Christ means recognizing that our lives, abilities, and even our opportunities are not truly our own. God has entrusted us with gifts, expecting us to use them for His glory and for the good of others. So, what is the connection? Stewardship is not just about managing money—it is about managing everything we have: our time, our talents, our relationships, and our responsibilities.

Jesus Himself lived as the perfect example of a faithful steward and a humble disciple. He did not come to serve His own interests but to serve others, ultimately sacrificing His life for us. At the Last Supper, Jesus washes the feet of His disciples, showing that true leadership and discipleship are found in humble service. He then commands His followers: *"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you"* (John 13:15).

From what Jesus taught us we understand that a life of service is discipleship, but what does it mean to be a disciple? It means learning from Christ, following Him, and living according to His teachings. But discipleship is not just about personal growth—it is about action. Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:40, *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* If we want to follow Christ, we must serve others.

Service can take many forms. It might mean volunteering at church, helping a friend who is struggling, standing up for someone being treated unfairly, or simply being present for a person in need. It also means using the talents God has given us in ways that glorify Him—whether that is through leadership, creativity, teaching, or any other ability we possess.

Reflection Questions

1. What are some gifts, talents, or resources that God has given you? How are you using them? Are you using them for God's glory - so that people thank God for the things you do?
2. In what ways can you be a better steward of your time and responsibilities?
3. Jesus washed the feet of His disciples as an act of service. What is one way you can serve someone in your life this week?
4. How does viewing your life as a steward change the way you think about your goals, choices, and actions?

Summary

We live in a world that values personal success, wealth, and independence. One of the greatest challenges for young people today is the temptation to focus only on ourselves and personal success — grades, sports, social status, future careers. While these things are important, Jesus calls us to something greater: to use these blessings not just for ourselves, but for others. When we serve, we reflect Christ, and when we live for Christ, we find true purpose.

As Christians, we are called to see life differently—not as something we own but as something we have been entrusted with. The Sunday of the Steward reminds us that we are not the owners of what we have, but caretakers, or “stewards,” of God’s blessings. Jesus teaches that a true disciple lives a life of service, using the gifts given by God to bring love, righteousness, and mercy into the world.

Group Project (optional): “The Parable of Stewardship” Creative Writing Project

Instructions:

1. Encourage students to reflect on stewardship and discipleship by creating their own parable (short story with a moral lesson that may include examples from their own lives).
2. Have students write a modern-day parable about stewardship. Students can use Jesus’ Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) or the Shrewd Steward (Luke 16:1-13) as examples and models to follow.
3. Encourage them to set their story in their school, family, or community to make it relatable.

Example ideas:

- A teen who misuses their time on social media instead of helping others, and how they learn responsibility.
- A student who hoards their talent (e.g., music, art, leadership) instead of using it to bless others.
- A group of friends who discover the importance of taking care of their environment.

An Idea: The best stories can be compiled into a booklet or shared in a storytelling session.

Close with prayer:

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ծանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesheree, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sasanetsayts yev voghormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

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