

Believe Series  
“Stewardship”

What is God’s call on my life?

*The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.  
The world and all its people belong to him.  
For he laid the earth’s foundation on the seas  
and built it on the ocean depths.*

Psalm 24:1-2 (NLT)

**We believe everything we are and  
everything we own belongs to God.**

**God is the Owner.**

*But I do not need the bulls from your barns  
or the goats from your pens.  
For all the animals of the forest are mine,  
and I own the cattle on a thousand hills.  
I know every bird on the mountains,  
and all the animals of the field are mine.  
If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for all the world is mine and everything in it.*

Psalm 50:9-12 (NLT)

**God doesn't need what you have.**

**We are Managers.**

*“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last - dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.*

*“The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.*

*“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’*

*“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’*

*“The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’*

*“The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’*

Matthew 25:14-23 (NLT)

**Invest what you’ve been given.**

**Use it or Lose it.**

*“Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’*

*“But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’*

*“Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’*

Matthew 25:24-30 (NLT)

**God may not be giving us more because we  
have not been faithful with what we have.**

## SO WHAT?

### **My time belongs to God.**

*Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.*

Colossians 3:23-24 (NLT)

### **My talent belongs to God.**

*God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.*

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

### **My treasure belongs to God.**

*Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins.*

*Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on."*

Mark 12:41-44 (NLT)

*You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."*

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

### **What do you believe?**

## Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

### **Read Believe Chapter 9: Stewardship.**

1. What was life like when you owned very little?

How has owning more changed the way you live your life?

2. Steward simply means manager. Tell of a time in your life when you had to manage something for the owner. How did you approach the task?

3. What is hardest for you to surrender to God, your time, your talent, or your treasure? Why?

4. Read Psalm 50. If God is self-sufficient, why do we have to return a portion of our wealth to Him?

5. Re-read Matthew 25:14-21. How does God reward good stewardship of His resources?

6. Re-read Matthew 25:24-30. What hindered the 3<sup>rd</sup> Servant from being a Good steward?

What hinders you from being a good steward?

7. List what are some of the things God has entrusted you to manage? How can you more fully surrender them to Him for His purposes?