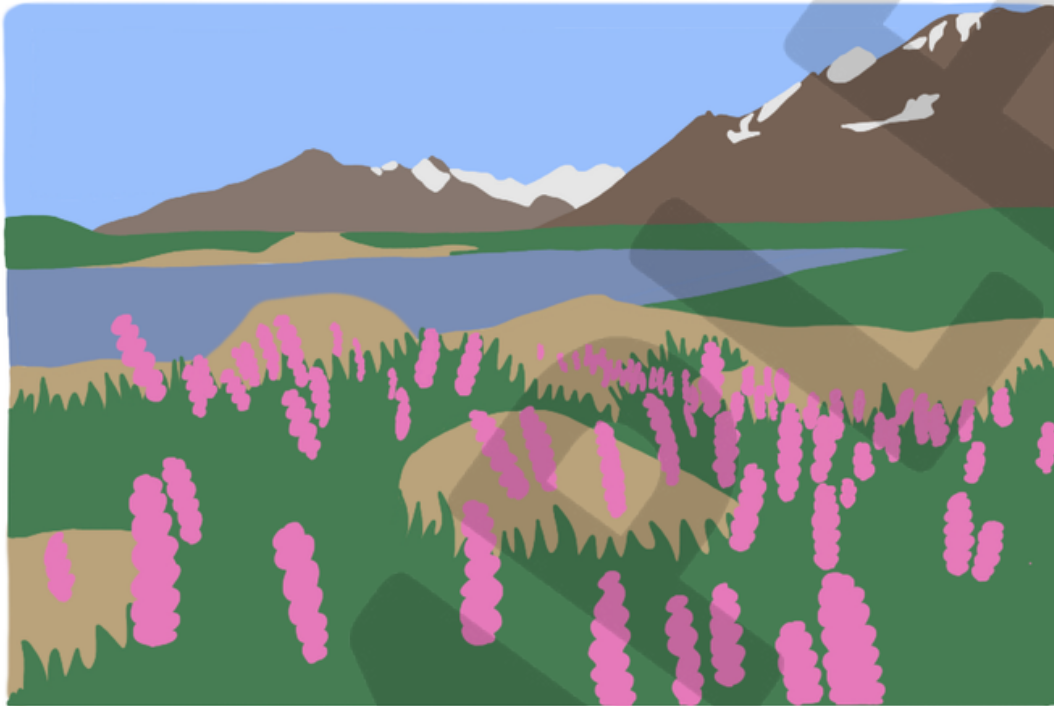


Living For Christ

Part 1 - Learning to Give



Memory Verse

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; - Proverbs 3:9

God is the Owner; We Are His Stewards

God shows concern to have every believer as His very own. He doesn't want our animal sacrifices, He wants us! In **Psalm 50:10-12**, He says,

"For every beast of the forest is mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.
I know all the birds of the hills,
and all that moves in the field is mine.
"If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fullness are mine."

This beautiful poem lays the foundation for the Bible's teaching on "stewardship." **The Bible teaches that God owns everything. We are His both by creation (He made us) and by redemption (He gave Jesus to die for us).** We owe Him everything that we are.

All the things we think of as our own are really His, and should be devoted to Him for His use. Even the money we think of as our own because we earned it, is really His. God has made us His "stewards" of everything we own. After all, when we belong to Him, what we have is His also.

A steward is someone who manages the property and affairs that belong to someone else. The steward does not own them himself; he or she only takes care of them. **A Christian is God's steward.** He or she really owns nothing, because the Christian needs to die to self; and then uses all of his or her resources in ways that honor God. A part of this is helping others to know Christ - which is actually making God's kingdom "come on earth as it is in heaven."

It is not accurate for people who are Christians to think of the things they possess as their own. This is the way people of the world think, and Christ's followers must guard against falling into this mindset. **When people become Christians (disciples of Jesus) they need to become aware that they are responsible to God for all that they have and are.**

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Lesson Questions

Answer the following questions or fill in the blank.

1. God didn't want just a believer's animal sacrifices. What did God really want?

2. The Bible teaches that God owns _____.

3. If we are Christians, we belong to God both by _____ and by

_____.

4. Even the money that we may have worked hard to earn really belongs to _____.

5. A _____ is someone who manages the _____ and

_____ that belong to someone else.

6. A Christian is _____ steward.

7. When people become _____, they are _____ to God

for all that they _____ and _____.

Personal Question: As believers, we are God's stewards. What does being God's steward mean to you personally?
