

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

GROUP

→ *Video Experience* ←



TONY EVANS

KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP

MANAGING ALL OF LIFE
UNDER GOD'S RULE

FOCUS^{ON}THE FAMILY[®]

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FOCUS ON THE FAMILY®

Kingdom Stewardship Group Video Experience Participant's Guide

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WELCOME, KINGDOM STEWARDS!

At the core of this unique look at stewardship is this truth: You are the executive manager over all God has given to you!

Kingdom stewardship is the divinely authorized responsibility for believers to faithfully oversee the protection and expansion of the assets (time, talents, and treasures) God has entrusted to them to manage on His behalf.

Kingdom stewards are believers who faithfully oversee the protection and expansion of the assets God has entrusted to them to manage on His behalf.

This participant's guide will help you explore in rich, biblical detail how to manage all of life under the rule and authority of God. You'll discover the abundance and satisfaction of a life lived for God.

At the core of each session is a video presentation featuring Dr. Tony Evans, author of *Kingdom Stewardship*. Dr. Evans' inspired teaching will give every participant new insights into biblical principles as well as assurances that God has established a pathway to greater blessing and reward through the right management (stewardship) of all He has given to you.

To make these truths come alive, you'll find these sections in each session:

The Gathering

Read the key Scripture verse, the Main Point, and a brief excerpt from the book *Kingdom Stewardship*. Answer the questions that follow the excerpt. If you run out of time, finish the section at home.

Show Time!

Use this section as you view and think about the DVD presentation; it includes thought-provoking questions and biblical input.

Transformation Moments

This wrap-up, which focuses on applicable Scripture passages, will help you find encouragement and ideas for applying the teaching to your own life.

Note: The DVD presentations and this guide are intended as general advice only, and are not meant to replace clinical counseling, medical treatment, legal counsel, or pastoral guidance.

Focus on the Family maintains a referral network of Christian counselors. For information, call 1-855-771-HELP (4357) or contact FocusOnTheFamily.com/Counseling.

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THE RESPONSIBILITY

His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.”

MATTHEW 25:23, ESV

The Main Point

The responsibility of kingdom stewards is to manage well what God has given them.

The Gathering

Begin your time together with prayer and praise. Seek to create a community of connection within your group by sharing prayer requests and experiences that provide members with an opportunity to engage with one another.

To find out more about the kingdom steward’s management role, read the following excerpt from *Kingdom Stewardship*. Then discuss the question that appears at the end of the excerpt.



THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE

In football, you will often read or hear the phrase “This is our house” or “Defend the house!” What this means is that when a visiting team comes to play, the home team makes it known that the visitors have entered into their domain. The home team makes it clear that they plan to protect, defend, and rule their house. The goal is to send the visiting team back to their own house with a defeat.

While sayings like that in sports can often be chalked up to mere hype (after all, many home teams lose games in “their house”), when God makes a similar claim to His own creation—He speaks seriously. Psalm 24:1 states it clearly, “The earth is the LORD’s, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.” God claims comprehensive kingdom ownership over all creation. This is His house. This is His kingdom. We live in His domain.

Psalm 89:11 puts it this way, “The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; the world and all it contains, You have founded them.”

Revelation 4:11 states, “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

God owns it all. And since God owns it all, neither you nor I have any right to claim ownership of something that is not ours. Even if we did make that claim, it wouldn’t make any real difference just as it wouldn’t

make any real difference if I claimed that any of the houses we watched during seminary were mine. When the true owners returned, I'd be kicked to the curb and undoubtedly I wouldn't even receive the payment that was due me for house-sitting. No owner is going to stand by while someone else seeks to take what is theirs.

Neither will God stand by as His creatures seek to usurp His sovereignty and role as the rightful owner of all of creation.

There is no shared ownership in God's kingdom.

There are no partnerships or additional signatories on any deeds or titles.

God owns it all.

Once you clearly understand and apply that spiritual truth to your life, you have set yourself on a journey of understanding as well as a pathway of unleashing your fullest potential.¹



Reflection and Discussion

How does knowing that God owns it all affect your understanding of your role in this world?

Show Time!

In session 1 of the *Kingdom Stewardship Group Video Experience*, Dr. Tony Evans explains what it means for people to be stewards of God's assets.



After viewing Tony Evans' presentation "The Responsibility," use the following questions to help you think through what you saw and heard.

1. In the business world, what are the concerns and responsibilities of a business owner?

What are the concerns and responsibilities of a business manager?

2. If God is the owner of all things, what do you think are the concerns and responsibilities of God?

If we are the managers of what God owns, what should our concerns and responsibilities be?

3. Dr. Evans said that we are to act on God's behalf, protecting and expanding God's assets. What does it mean to act on God's behalf?

4. Dr. Evans says that conflict happens when managers start acting like owners. In what ways do people act more like owners than managers of God's assets?

What problems does that cause?

5. Dr. Evans teaches that God entrusts us with time, talents, and treasures. In what ways does a responsible kingdom steward manage the time God has given?

In what ways does a responsible kingdom steward manage the talents God has given?

In what ways does a responsible kingdom steward manage the treasures God has given?

6. Read Matthew 25:14-30. God expects us not just to protect the assets He's entrusted to us, but to grow those assets. What can you do this week to be a better steward?

For what purpose are we to grow what God has given to us?

7. How does God respond when we act as responsible kingdom stewards?

How have you experienced this in your life?

8. Dr. Evans stated that life changes when we realize that everything we have is given by God and that we are to manage it for His purposes. He says when we act as responsible kingdom stewards, we will be working in cooperation with God rather than in conflict with Him. What do you think would happen in your life if you were working in cooperation with God in this way?

Transformation Moments

Read the following passages. Answer the questions that follow. If you run out of time, finish this section at home.

The earth is the LORD's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.

PSALM 24:1

Is there an area of your life where you need to apply God's overarching rule as His steward?

God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

GENESIS 1:28

In what way can you demonstrate more personal responsibility in your sphere of influence to bring God glory?

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

EPHESIANS 5:15-16

Spend a moment conducting a personal time assessment. Is there something you could cut back on or remove altogether that would free up time to be spent more wisely for God's kingdom purposes?

Final Challenge

When you act as a responsible kingdom steward, you will experience the blessing of working in cooperation with God rather than in conflict with Him. In prayer this week, ask God to help you be fruitful and multiply the time, talents, and treasures He has given to you.

