



Stewardship Part 4: Your Time

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Preview

Part of being a good steward is using wisely the time God has given us.

Praise

Ask the students to share a testimony of something God has done for them recently. Allow as many to participate as are willing, as time permits.

Parable

I have a riddle for you...

What am I?

I am a gift from God.

I represent you, I stand for you, and I define you.

Some take me for granted; some take me for all I'm worth.

Some cherish me; some throw me away.

Relatively speaking, I'm quite short, but I always last a lifetime.

I'm all you have, and I'm all you can control.

At first glance I may appear to be a negative, but you can positively determine my meaning, my worth, my value, my importance.

I matter more than the day you were born or the day you will die.

Your decisions might make me shorter or longer.

You shape me, even though I'm chiseled in stone.

I am the dash in the middle! You know the day you were born. You don't know the day you will die. You can control neither; all you can control is what you do with the dash in the middle of those dates.



Present

We have learned over the past few weeks about being a good steward. A steward is someone who manages things for another person. Since everything we are and have belongs to God, our time must be managed for His kingdom as well. **James 4:14:** "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

Time is God's gift to us. How much we have is God's secret. How we use it is our choice. **Psalm 90:12:** "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

A survey on American time use shows that most people spend 4-7 hours a day watching TV and 5 hours a day on the internet. Compare that to 15 minutes that is spent on a religious activity (such as prayer or Bible reading) and 35 minutes spent with family, and a lack of good stewardship is evident!

There is an internet craze that captures this concept: #YOLO. You only live once. The saying originates from Drake's song, "The Motto." The song basically says that since we only live once we should live it up by doing drugs, having sex, getting drunk, etc. Is this being a good steward of our time?

We have three choices with our time:

- Live for the moment. People who do this live as if there is no tomorrow; they do what feels good right now. The prodigal son was like that. He wanted his inheritance immediately. He wasted it all and ended up with nothing. Even though he made it back to his father's house, he had nothing left.
- Go with the flow. These people don't live for anything; they just do what everyone else is doing. They have no ambitions. Jesus talks about someone like this in the parable of the talents. The master gave a man a talent, but instead of investing it, he just buried it in the ground. The master was angry because the servant did nothing with what he was given!
- Live our lives with purpose. We can be intentional about our time with an understanding that we have the ability to make an eternal impact!

It's true; you only live once. We don't have to waste our lives, though. YOLOMIC – You Only Live Once, Make It Count!



P_ractice

Let's review:

What are some examples of people "Living for the moment?" Is that being a good steward?

What are some examples of people "Going with the flow?" Is that being a good steward?

What are some examples of people "Living with purpose?" Is that being a good steward?

P_ray

Pray with the students for God to help them place their values on things of His kingdom rather than the things of this world. Pray that God will help them to better invest their finances in His kingdom.

P_lus

Show the following diagram. Instruct your students to draw it on their own paper.

	URGENT	NOT URGENT
IMPORTANT	<u>Necessity</u>	<u>Productivity and Balance</u>
NOT IMPORTANT	<u>Deception</u>	<u>Waste and Excess</u>

Ask them to fill in the diagram with their daily activities. Encourage them to use this information to make better decisions with their time.