

LESSON ONE

Stewarding Life

Text

GENESIS 1:26–28

26 *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

28 *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Overview

This lesson is an overview of stewarding life—that is, of managing and balancing God's gifts to enable us to invest our lives in that which has lasting significance. Throughout the following twelve weeks, we will look at individual stewardship of specific gifts. For today, we will focus on understanding God's purposes and priorities for our lives.

Introduction

I. The _____ of Life

A. Our _____ God

PSALM 36:9

9 For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

JEREMIAH 17:13

13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.

EXODUS 3:14

14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

B. Our _____ God

GENESIS 1:26-28

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

EPHESIANS 4:24

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

GENESIS 2:7

7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

II. The _____ of Life

A. Because it is _____ by God

JEREMIAH 1:5

5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

LUKE 1:15

15 ...and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

PSALM 139:13-16

13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

B. Because it is _____ by God

EXODUS 20:13

13 Thou shalt not kill.

GENESIS 9:6

6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

ROMANS 13:4

4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

**III. The _____ of _____
over Life**

A. In the _____ of life

1. Sarah

GENESIS 18:13-14

13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

2. Hannah

1 SAMUEL 1:5, 19-20

5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb.

19 And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

3. Elisabeth

LUKE 1:7, 11-14

7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

B. In the _____ of life

DEUTERONOMY 30:15

15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

REVELATION 4:11

11 Thou art worthy, O LORD, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

NUMBERS 14:21

21 But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.

MARK 16:15

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

C. In the _____ of earthly life

GENESIS 6:17

17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

ROMANS 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROMANS 5:12

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

1 SAMUEL 2:6

6 The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

JOB 34:14-15

14 If he set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath;

15 All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.

PSALM 104:29

29 Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

ISAIAH 38:5

5 Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.

PSALM 73:17, 26

17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

1 KINGS 3:7

7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

IV. The _____ of Eternal Life

A. From our _____

ROMANS 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is **death**; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROMANS 5:8

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ **died** for us.

PSALM 49:15

15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

1 JOHN 2:25

25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

B. Because of the _____

JOHN 11:25-27

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

JOHN 14:6

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.

Conclusion

JEREMIAH 1:5

5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

MATTHEW 25:21

21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Memory Verse

Study Questions

1. What are the three basic methods by which people choose to appropriate the resources God has given to them?
2. What is our purpose on earth?
3. What truths do Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139:13–16, and Luke 1:15 teach?
4. In what three aspects of life did we study God's sovereignty?
5. Looking at the specific responsibilities God has given you, rate each one as to whether you have been squandering, spending, or stewarding that area of your life.

6. How have you seen God's purposes for creating you fulfilled in your life thus far?

7. One major aspect of living for God's glory is to make spreading the gospel a central part of our lives. Are you regularly sharing the gospel with lost people?

8. Throughout this lesson we have been speaking of the stewarding of our earthly lives. What about your eternal life? Write out your salvation testimony.

Memory Verse

1 KINGS 3:7

7 ...I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.