

# Stewardship Intergenerational Gathering

## Small-group Session Plan 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

### Objectives for this lesson with this age group:

1. To build on the opening experience in which the idea of stewardship was briefly presented, and to further develop their understanding of stewardship in ways that are meaningful to them.
2. To then study some scripture passages that tell us what God expects of us as stewards.
3. And then to identify some ways that we can live that out.

### Materials needed:

- ◆ Catechist Background (attached)
- ◆ basket
- ◆ small slips of paper
- ◆ pen or pencil
- ◆ pictures (for step #5 in this plan)
- ◆ book: *Sam and the Lucky Money* by Karen Chinn
- ◆ Bible passage written on board before session (see step #7 in this plan)
- ◆ board marker
- ◆ drawing paper
- ◆ markers

### Before the session:

- ◆ Go to your assigned room and check to see that everything is there and ready.

You will be called by name to lead the children in your age group to your room.

### Small-group time: 1 hour

1. Welcome the children. Tell them your name. Take a couple minutes to get to know them. Ask them to move their nametag to where you can see it, if necessary.
2. Ask the children to recall what they just experienced. [Song - □Grateful.□ Then an activity in which they drew or wrote things God has given them and for which they are grateful. Then a time to share and hear what others drew or wrote. A brief explanation of stewardship. And then a prayer experience about gratitude.]
3. Review the concept of stewardship with the children. Put it in your own words. (See the catechist background attached to this plan.) I would define stewardship as 1) Being grateful for everything and therefore taking good care of what we have and using it well, and 2) Sharing what we have and serving others.
4. Show them the □gift basket□ and explain that together you are going to name lots of things that we are given and for which we are grateful and those will be put into the basket. Ask them to begin by remembering what they drew or wrote in the large group

activity they just came from. As they name things, quickly jot each one on a slip of paper and put it into the gift basket. Encourage them to think of things we tend to take for granted, for example, the ability to walk, our sight, hearing and other senses, etc.

5. Ask the question, "How do we take good care of and use well all these things we have been given by God?" Show them the pictures and ask them to say how the people are taking good care of their gifts or using them well.
6. Introduce the book, *Sam and the Lucky Money*. Read the book aloud to the group and show them the pictures. [One way of doing this is for you to be seated and invite the children - depending on how many are in the group - to kneel and stand around and behind you and look over your shoulder.]

After reading the book, use these or other questions for discussion.

- ❖ What gifts did Sam have? [Besides the obvious answer of "money" encourage them to recognize that he also had the gifts of family, a home, warm clothes, etc.]
- ❖ What are some of the things Sam considered spending his money for?
- ❖ What do you think you might have bought?
- ❖ Why do you think Sam finally decided to give the money to the old man?
- ❖ Do you think that was a good choice? Why or why not?
- ❖ Do you think that by giving his money to the old man Sam was being a good steward? Why or why not?
- ❖ Can you think of a time when you might have a chance to do something like what Sam did?

7. Listening to the Word of God

Introduce this section by saying something like: "We don't just try to be good stewards in order to be "nice" people. We try to be stewards because that is what God asks of us. The Bible passage we're going to read and study tells us how God wants us to see ourselves as stewards."

Direct their attention to the Bible passage written on the board. Read it to them at least twice.

**Be kind to each other without complaining. Like good stewards of God's grace, serve one another with whatever gifts each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:9-10)**

Invite them to talk about what each sentence means and give a couple examples of how they could do what God is asking us to do.

8. Integrating the concepts and preparing for action  
Divide them into small groups of about 3. Explain that you will let each small group choose one of the slips from the "gift basket." Then they are to make up a story or skit in which people are being good stewards of that gift. Give them about 5 minutes to prepare, then ask each group to present their story or skit. While they are preparing, move around the room and help them develop their ideas. If a group is really struggling, let them choose a different "gift" from the basket.
- 9.

9. If there is time remaining, distribute the drawing paper and markers and ask them to draw a picture of themselves using one of their abilities to help others, being good stewards.
10. Ask the children to gather up the papers. Thank them for their participation. Ask them to take the handouts with them. Just leave the materials in the room □ it is important for you to go with your group and get back to your own family.

**Thanks!!!**

# Catechist Background

## Some General Ideas About Stewardship

- ❖ To be a *steward* is to care, to the best of my ability, for property or talents or other people for whom I am responsible. In secular terms we speak of a "wine steward" in a fine restaurant whose job it is to see that a proper type of wine is served with each course of a meal, in the proper glass, at the correct temperature, etc. to maximize the enjoyment of the wine and the meal. That person is being a good steward of the wine and of the customer. To be a Christian steward is to be the best possible disciple of Christ that I can be, here and now in my daily life.
- ❖ The concept of stewardship as a part of our faith comes from as far back as the Old Testament commands that we make good use of all that God gives us and to share that with others. Stewardship is about recognizing that everything we are and have is gift from God. We do not create our abilities; they are given to us. We do not deserve our jobs, homes and possessions; they are gifts. We do not earn love; it is always a gift.
- ❖ Stewardship is an attitude, a way of life and a way of relating to God and others. When I recognize how blessed I am by God, I respond by sharing with others, trusting that God will continue to bless me (rather than feeling that I have to hoard what I have).
- ❖ The word *stewardship* is challenging for many Catholics. For many, it reminds them of being asked for money or to sign up to do things at church. One of our challenges in this gathering is to respect where people are in their understanding of the term, but also provide a fuller, more balanced vision of stewardship.
- ❖ Stewardship has been described with various words and images. One set that was used for a number of years was *Time, Talent and Treasure*. Those are okay but also have limitations. For example, there is a lot of overlap between time and talent.
- ❖ Bishop Morneau likes to say that, "Stewardship is what I do after I believe."
- ❖ Another way to describe stewardship is *Prayer, Service and Sharing*. Those are the words that our diocese and our parish are currently using to take the word stewardship and break it down into "do-able" pieces.
- ❖ We speak of our "Stewardship of Prayer," meaning the ways in which we attend to our responsibility to spend time (and effort) in prayer, upholding our end of our relationship with God.
- ❖ "Stewardship of Service" refers to our responsibility to use our energy, time and abilities to serve others, in our family, our faith community and the wider civic community.
- ❖ "Stewardship of Sharing" includes our responsibility to share with others the vast array of things we have been given by God, to respond with gratitude and then generosity.