

FIRST THINGS FIRST

WEEK 4: NEVER MINE

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Stewardship and Ownership

Everything comes from God, everything belongs to God, and everything can be used by God.

SERMON REWIND

This week focuses on one of the clearest truths of biblical stewardship: **it all comes from God, and it all belongs to God.**

In 1 Chronicles 29, David gives generously toward the temple, but he does not boast in what he gave. Instead, he worships God and says, "Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

That truth changes everything. We are not owners. We are all managers of something. Our lives, homes, incomes, gifts, time, influence, and resources are gifts from God entrusted to us for His purposes.

If everything belongs to God, then the question is not just, "What do I want to do with what I have?" The better question here is, "God, how do I honor You with what You have entrusted to me?"

Jesus is inviting us to see our entire life as a gift and to place everything under His leadership.

KEY VERSES

1 Chronicles 29:10-17 (NIV)

Additional Verses: 1 Corinthians 4:6-7 (NIV) 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)
Psalm 24:1 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Everything Comes from God

David recognizes in Psalms 24:1 that everything that he has ultimately comes from God, and belongs to God. Nothing in our hands is truly ours to hold apart from Him.

- a. Why is it important to remember that everything we have comes from God?
- b. How does gratitude change the way we view our resources?

2 Managers, Not Owners

Biblical stewardship teaches us that we are managers of what God has entrusted to us.

- a. What is the difference between seeing yourself as an owner and seeing yourself as a steward?
- b. How might your decisions change if you viewed your resources as entrusted to you by God?

3 Never Mine

If everything belongs to God, then nothing in our lives is outside His leadership.

- a. What areas of life are easiest to see as belonging to God?
- b. What are the hardest things to surrender to God?

4 Honoring God with What We Have

It's less about "What do I want?" but rather "God, what do you want and how can I honor you in all things?"

- a. How can that question reshape the way we spend, save, give, or plan?
- b. What is one resource God has entrusted to you that you want to steward more faithfully?

5

Gratitude That Leads to Surrender

When we see God as generous, our gratitude should move us toward surrender.

- a. What is one thing that God has provided for you in your life?
- b. What is one way that gratitude could lead you to live more open-handed this week?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Stewardship begins when we stop asking, "How much of this belongs to God?" and start asking, "How do I honor God with all of this?"

- What have you been treating as fully yours instead of entrusted to you?
- Where might Jesus be inviting you to move from control to surrender?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This week, practice stewardship by:

- Pray over your income, home, time, gifts, and responsibilities.
- Ask God, "How do You want me to honor You with what You have entrusted to me?"
- Choose one area where you can practice faithful stewardship this week.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live as a faithful steward of everything God has placed in your hands.

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Psalms 24:1 (NIV)

Let the group close by remembering that the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. We belong to Him, and what we hold belongs under His care and leadership.

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