

STUDY GUIDE: Our Great Exchange

Week #1 | CHARACTER

October 27-November 2

This in-depth video-based study explores why our almighty God entrusts us to be managers of - and collaborators in - his restoration project.

NOTE: Contact Jeannie McCoy @ jeannie@rbcpcc.org for access to the weekly video segments..

INTRODUCTION

Today's video asks the question: "*Why would an almighty God choose to make weak, fallible human beings the stewards of his world?*" We live in a world with a lot of stuff, and far too often, we see stewardship as a matter of the stuff we have instead of the people we are created and called to be.

WATCH VIDEO

CHAT

- What do you think of when you hear the word, "stewardship" - especially as it is commonly used in churches? What was a new thought for you about stewardship as you watched the video?
- In what ways is being a good steward (*house manager*) like being a good businessperson?

READ & DISCUSS

Matthew 25:31-46

The story of the master and servants told in the video lesson is followed by this passage. Obviously, God doesn't need or want our material gifts for himself, but places high value on what we do with our resources.

- What gifts or resources have you been given? Imagine that you lost all your money tomorrow. What would you still have to steward?
- Why do we tend to focus so much on our stuff?
- What can we learn about where our hearts are by looking at how we manage our resources?
- What is the relationship between duty - what we owe God - and sonship - how we love God?

Liske defines a steward as being a *house manager* - someone who has the responsibility of not only taking care of the owner's property, but expanding it, making it better, increasing its' value.

- If you were placing your most prized possessions into someone else's care, what sort of person would you want them to be?
- Think about your job, your family, your house, your stuff; how does it change your perspective to view them from your role as God's house manager?
- How did the attitude of the Gorilla Pictures team have an economic, social, and spiritual impact? What would "lift as you climb" mean in your work/social/home environment?

APPLY

Stewardship is using what you have to become what you were made to be; *being* versus *having*. The end result is not having more “stuff” but instead being a responsible member of God’s joyful household, invited to share in his happiness - significance that goes beyond what we have or may achieve. May we begin to see ourselves as a co-creators with God, uniquely gifted collaborators in the expansion of his kingdom!

This week: Choose one small thing you own - no matter how small - that you could give to God, where it would be easy for you to be joyful doing so. Ask God what he wants done with it. Listen and do it!

CLOSE IN PRAYER

