

**My Place in Space** uses active learning to teach the importance of being good stewards. The participants will learn that stewards take care of everything for which they are given responsibility. Too often we think of stewardship as limited to money. These programs cover a broad concept of being a steward in the Biblical sense. At home, in the community and country, and especially in God's cosmic plan, each has an assigned role to play. Here are the 12 programs for ages 7 through adult

1. Stewardship of My Body-1
2. Stewardship of My Body-2
3. Stewardship of My Home
4. Stewardship of My Church
5. Stewardship of My School
6. Stewardship of My Community
7. Stewardship of My Country
8. Stewardship of My Universe
9. Stewardship of My New Body
10. Stewardship of My New Home
11. Stewardship of My New City
12. Stewardship of My New Country



## Introduction

**My Place in Space** uses active learning to teach the importance of being good stewards. The participants will learn that stewards take care of everything for which they are given responsibility. Too often we think of stewardship as limited to money. These programs cover a broad concept of being a steward in the Biblical sense. At home, in the community and country, and especially in God's cosmic plan, each has an assigned role to play. Here are the 12 programs for ages 7 through adult

1. Stewardship of My Body-1
2. Stewardship of My Body-2
3. Stewardship of My Home
4. Stewardship of My Church
5. Stewardship of My School
6. Stewardship of My Community
7. Stewardship of My Country
8. Stewardship of My Universe
9. Stewardship of My New Body
10. Stewardship of My New Home
11. Stewardship of My New City
12. Stewardship of My New Country

Many of these programs teach principles of ecology, or caring for our earth, the job that was originally given to Adam and Eve. Practicing ecology is practicing good stewardship. However, ecology has become closely linked to the New Age, the worship of mother earth, and pantheism. For that reason the term ecology is not used in these activities. Instead, the terms *stewardship* and *responsibility* are used.

These programs work well with a wide range of ages, and many of the activities call for participants to work in pairs. Pairing children with older people, or pairing a reader with a non-reader, will enliven the activities by providing a broader scope of ideas to enrich the concept of stewardship.

Be sure to have fun. There are privileges attached to being in charge of things. And God puts stewards in charge of many things. Plan a culminating event at the close of this series to celebrate the privileges God has granted. Good food is a part of every celebration, but here are some other suggestions for the climax to your study of stewardship:

- Invite the group members to brainstorm ideas for the celebration.
- Review favorite activities.
- Have each participant bring at least one family member or friend who will have the opportunity to see and hear what the group has learned.
- Hand out stewardship certificates (a sample is included) to all the class members.

## Room Decoration Ideas

Begin this series of programs by prominently displaying the theme title, *My Place in Space*.

Add the appropriate subtitle week by week, i.e. Stewardship of My Body, Stewardship of My School, etc. By constantly visualizing the theme and program topic, participants are far more likely to make the connections among the activities and internalize the meaning.

Make room decorations specific to participants and their homes, community, church and country. This can be accomplished by using photographs or drawings of participants' homes, a large map of the community, a map of your country, and a map of your continent. You will also want to display a globe or world map to place each of the above in context. You may want to provide a Stewardship Bulletin Board for information about good and bad stewardship. The weekly volunteers (see below) may bring pictures and/or articles that can be displayed throughout the series.

Programs will utilize these and give suggestions for other visuals. As you progress through the series, you will have more and more visual aids from the activities in the programs.

## Visual Aids to Buy

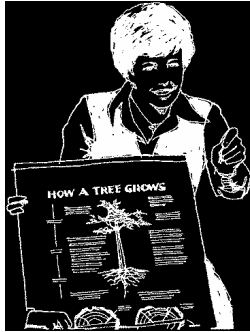
Little Folks Visuals offers beautiful felt sets of the human body, the Second Coming, heaven, and the solar system.

Little Folks Visuals  
39620 Entrepreneur Lane  
Palm Desert, CA 92211 USA  
Tel: (760) 345-5571  
1-800-537-7227  
FAX (760) 360-0225



Educational supply stores also have visual aids of the human body and the solar system. These can be used in several of the programs. However, do not let a lack of money hinder you. Your participants will love to help make the needed visual aids and may learn more from their own handiwork than from anything you can buy.

## How To Be a Good Discussion Leader



These programs are based on active learning because people understand and remember much more when they are involved in discussing and doing and sharing. Active learning removes a burden teachers have traditionally carried. You aren't responsible for teaching all the facts to the participants. You are the organizer and the facilitator. Don't think of yourself as the expert. In active learning everyone in the group thinks and shares and builds understanding. You will learn from each other's



contributions. All of you together will learn under Christ's direction.

For active learning to succeed, it is very important for the leader to do less talking and the group members to interact more. Here are six simple rules to follow that will encourage participation by the group members:

1. Encourage the group to ask questions and answer each other's questions.
2. Ask very few questions that can be answered with a "Yes" or "No."
3. Limit the questions that have only one answer, such as, "Who created the world?"
4. Ask questions that have many possible answers, such as, "How do you think a person feels when he or she pays tithes?"
5. No putdowns. Be respectful in accepting whatever answer is given. Most of the participants will be afraid to talk if they have to worry about making a mistake.
6. Don't do anything that a group member can do. You want all of them to be as involved as possible because their degree of involvement will determine their degree of interest.

## Sample Program

### **Materials needed**

A simple list is provided for each activity, but you will need to read through the actual activity in order to understand how to prepare.

- Display today's topic** under the title, *My Place in Space*
- Song service**
- Opening prayer**
- Reinforcement Time with Show and Tell Volunteers**

A review from program to program will help the participants remember what was studied

before and how it connects to what we are studying now. For that reason, each program includes a time for volunteers to share what they learned by bringing something to show that is somehow related to the previous stewardship topic. After the sharing time about the previous topic, the leader will request new volunteers for the next program. The volunteers find an article, draw a picture, or take a photograph of something that shows good stewardship.

For instance, let us say that last time you studied stewardship of the community, today you are studying the stewardship of the country, and next time you will be studying stewardship of the universe. During reinforcement time today you will have people (who volunteered last time) prepared to review or share what they learned from the last program about community. These volunteers will present what they have brought.

At the close of reinforcement time you will call for new volunteers who will look for something about today's topic—stewardship of the country—to bring next time.

#### **Activities\***

More activities are provided than you will have time to complete. Read through the program ahead of time, noting the materials needed, and then decide which activities to use. As long as interest is high, it is better not to rush people through more activities. You may want to use some activities more than once. You may want to continue the series until all activities have been used. You may think of different activities. It is up to you. Consider your participants, your space, and your resources. Pray for guidance to choose what is best for your group.

Sword Drill: You will use the Bible in every program. Some programs include an activity called a sword drill. This name comes from Ephesians 6:17 where the sword of the Spirit is identified as the Word of God. These activities reinforce the Bible concept of stewardship. Moreover, they improve the participants' use of the "sword" and enrich their understanding of God's Word.

\* Sentences in brackets are instruction to you. (Sample 1 below.) Unbracketed sentences are words you may speak directly to the group. (Sample 2 below.)

Sample 1: [Pass out envelopes and pencils.]

Sample 2: For the next few weeks we are going to study My Place in Space.

- Every time a flip chart is mentioned, you may substitute newsprint or other large inexpensive paper or a writing board.

#### **Summary**

Take a couple minutes at the close of each program to ask review questions and check for misunderstanding. Suggested questions are listed for you.

#### **Reminder to Show and Tell Volunteers**

Call the names of those who volunteered for the next program and hand them written reminders.

- Closing prayer**

**Suggested Reminder Notice for Show and Tell Volunteers**

Thank you for volunteering to bring something to our next meeting that will remind us of what we learned today, and perhaps teach us something new about the stewardship topic we studied.

Please bring a magazine or newspaper article, or a picture or cartoon, or any other item you find that reminds you of the stewardship topic we discussed today. We are eager to see and hear what you will share.

We appreciate the time and effort you put into this responsibility. It will enrich the understanding each of us gains from our stewardship programs.