

MY PLACE IN SPACE

Stewardship of My Church

- Display today's topic**
- Song service**
- Opening prayer**

Reinforcement Time With Show and Tell Volunteers

What has happened to you this week that made you think about stewardship? What have you done to be a good steward in your home?

[Invite the show and tell volunteers to

present what they have brought that illustrates stewardship of the home. You may be able to add some of what they brought to the Stewardship Bulletin Board.]

[Ask for volunteers who will bring something to the next meeting that reminds them or teaches them about stewardship of the church.]

Activity No. 1: *Participate in your church.*



What do you do to help at church?
[Encourage responses.] One of the most important things is to just participate. It is your church too. Do what everyone else is doing.

[Have everyone work together to list the activities that are going on at church. A large group can be divided so that small groups make the list, then come together again to compare and compile their lists. To make this activity more effective, invite a pastor, elder, or deacon to join this discussion. Prepare some of the children to say something like the following: "I want to be more involved at church. What can I do to help? Frequently the church leader can give suggestions, and, once they know children want to be involved, can ask them to participate.]

[Here are a few participation suggestions for involving children: Children love sunshine

bands. At church potluck helpers are needed to set up, put things on the tables, and clean up afterward. Many times church leaders need help with vespers. Children can give Scripture reading; prayer; or special music; etc..]

Activity No. 2: *Two stewards.*

I am going to tell you about two people. Then I want you to tell me what these little stories have to do with our program today.

Tim and Van went to the same church and participated in the same programs. One day while Tim was sitting in church he noticed a little hole in the cushion on the pew where he was sitting, and he stuck his pen in the hole and made it bigger. After church he walked

Volunteer! One of the easiest places to volunteer to help is in your Sabbath school. Ask a leader how you can help.

down the hallway with the same pen in his hand, dragging it along the wall. It made a big line all the way across the freshly painted wall.

Van's family always stayed and chatted a long time after church. While he waited for them, Van liked to go up and down the rows of benches, picking up any papers or trash. He also put away all the hymnals and asked the deacons for more tithe envelopes to fill the little slots on the backs of the pews.

What do Tim and Van have to do with this program today? [Wait for responses and encourage a discussion of good stewardship of the church building.]

Is there some room in our church that we could make into a better place? [If the answer is Yes, have the group plan a work bee to take place on Sunday or a weekday.]

Activity 1: flip chart & marker

Activity 2: copies of letter to go home to families

Activity 3: flip chart & marker

Activity 4: coins or play money or food items to figure tithe

Activity 5: play money; tithe envelopes & pencils for everyone

Activity 6: Bibles; five small cards

Activity 7: play money to figure average monthly salary of a family; flip chart to list items monies are used for (optional)

[Send a letter home and invite families. A fill-in-the blanks letter is provided for you below. Organize your work bee with specific tasks that group members and their families can do. The tasks could include washing walls and tables; vacuuming the carpet; possibly painting; helping to assemble a new visual aid board--whatever the chosen room needs.]

[Make the work bee short. An hour or two

is probably the longest that you can keep your group on task. End with a picnic lunch and give out thank-you letters and good stewardship certificates to all of your participants. Make sure to thank them again

Please bring (list any cleaning equipment or supplies you need families to bring).

We will be having a picnic lunch immediately following our work bee at (the place). Please bring (list anything you wish families to bring for the picnic).

Come and share the joy of making a difference for God's house. We look forward to seeing you there!

(Sign the letter)

Activity No. 3: Stewardship of people.

God wants us to take care of the people who worship with us in church. When we notice people are sick or away, or sitting by themselves, we need to get in touch with them. What do you think we could do? [Make a list of all the suggestions, and plan to implement those the group most favor.]

[Here are suggestions if you need help getting started:]

during the next program and recognize their good stewardship.]

Sample Letter

[Fill in the blanks to fit this letter to your chosen project.]

Dear Friends:

We are planning a work bee to make (the chosen room) a better place.

We will be meeting on (day), (date), (time), for (amount of time).

Here are the tasks that need to be done:
(list tasks)

--For people who are sick, or away, or missing members, have postcards, or supplies the group can use for making cards. Pass them around so everyone can sign them. You may also want to make cards for discouraged members, those who have unemployed family members, or anyone having a hard time.

--Start a hug-a-grandparent plan where every member of the group chooses an elderly church member to hug and say "Hi" to every week.

What can you do for someone who is all alone in your church? [Encourage responses, and challenge the group to action.]

Activity No. 4: Stewardship of money.

What is the difference between tithe and offerings? [Encourage discussion.] Tithe is

one-tenth of the money that we receive. It belongs to God. Offerings are free will--we choose the amount of money to give. Both tithe and offerings are important. [Use coins or play money and have children practice figuring tithe. If possible, bring different kinds of food that is growing in the group members' gardens. Have the group figure the tithe for each kind of food. If younger children are in the group, use 10 of the same coin or food, and have them pick out every tenth one as tithe. For older children you may wish to mix coins so they have to add up the total and figure out one-tenth of that amount. Explain that tithe is not just on money, it is figured on anything

For any amount, follow the same two easy rules: (1) move the decimal point one space to the left, and (2) leave off the last digit/number on the right. Here are some amounts of money to practice on: [\$1.25, \$3.00, \$2.50, \$4.75, \$25.00. Give each child some play money. Have them count the money, write down the amount, then figure the tithe using the two rules above.]

[Give each child a tithe envelope (P-3) and ask someone to explain what should be written on the 1st line. Continue through each line, asking questions, inviting questions and having each participant actually write his/her

information on the lines. "Wasting" this one set of tithe envelopes will be a good investment for the future. Many people of all ages have difficulty using something new for the first time. In fact, if some of your adult participants are relatively new church members, it would be valuable to go through a regular tithe envelope with them line by line.]

[It would be a good idea for one of the

that brings income to our families.]

Activity No. 5: *How do I figure 1/10?*

Tithe is very, very easy to figure. If you

want to figure tithe on \$10.00, just move the decimal point one space toward the left and leave off the last digit/number on the right: \$10.00 → \$1.00.

children's meetings, such as Sabbath school, to choose a "financial counselor." This friendly person could be there as the children arrive, prepared with tithe envelopes and personable help with any questions the children have about giving tithe and offerings.]

Activity No. 6: *Sword Drill: Bible tithe.*

[Write the following texts on cards. Have a reader and a non-reader work together. The reader first reads the passage out loud to the group. Then the non-reader says in his/her own words what the text teaches about tithe.]

Genesis 14:18-20

Leviticus 27:30-32

Malachi 3: 1 0

Matthew 23:23

2 Chronicles 31:5

Activity No. 7: *Where does all the money go?*

[Use enough play money to approximate the average monthly salary of one family. Hold up the money, and ask how the money is used each month. Is it a lot of money just to play with? Prompt the group to think of setting aside tithe and offerings first. Then lead them to think of a house payment, taxes, food, school fees, clothes, insurance, utilities, transportation, entertainment, etc. This activity helps the children understand that money does not grow on trees, and that parents have many financial responsibilities. It can also help new members practice a pattern of setting aside tithe and offerings first, instead of

❑ **Reminder to Show and Tell Volunteers**

[Call the names of those who volunteered for the next program and hand them written reminders. See the Sample Program for a suggested reminder.]

❑ **Closing prayer**

paying them if any money is left over.]

❑ **Summary**

[Suggested questions to ask: What did you learn today that was new to you? What information will you be able to use?]

[Listen carefully to responses, because you may hear and need to react to a misunderstanding of what was studied during the program.]

