

MY PLACE IN SPACE

Stewardship of My Country

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

Reinforcement Time With Show and Tell Volunteers

What have you done to be a good steward in your community this week? How many of you are enthusiastic recyclers?

[Invite the show and tell volunteers to present what they have brought that illustrates good stewardship of the community. You may be able to add some of their contributions to the Stewardship Bulletin Board.]

[Ask for volunteers who will bring

something to the next meeting that has to do with stewardship of their country.]

Introduction: We have progressed from stewardship of our bodies and home and school to church and community. Are we important enough to have responsibility for our country as well? We're going to talk about that today.

Activity No. 1: *Stewards of your country.*

[Display a map of your country. Have volunteers write facts 1, 2, and 3 on separate small cards or pieces of paper. Have each group member fill out a paper for No. 4 below. Attach all of the cards and papers on or around the map:]

1. the name of the country
2. the languages spoken [if several languages are spoken in your country, try to show the areas where they are spoken]
3. the main products or industries
4. what you like best about our country

[After all the notes are attached on or around the map, ask these questions:]

- Are you responsible for your country?
- What does God expect you to do for your country? [Have the group brainstorm. Sample answers could be: obey laws; pay taxes; pray for the people who make decisions; help protect the beauty of national parks.]
- How does God feel about us paying taxes? Does He expect us to? [Have someone read Matthew 22:15-22.]
- What does God expect you to do about your country's leadership? What if you live in a country where people are allowed to vote for the president? If someone you do not admire is elected, should you speak respectfully of that elected person? Should you pray for him/her? [Allow time for responses to each question.]
- What if the citizens of your country are not allowed to choose the leader? Should you still pray for the leader? [Have a volunteer read Romans 13:1-8, one verse at a time. (If possible, read from a modern version of the Bible.) Stop after each verse and have someone explain what the verse means and how it could be followed in your country.]
- Does God care how we treat the earth?

Activity 1: map of your country; small cards; Bibles		
Activity 2: flip chart; large world map or globe; pictures of endangered animals (see activity for suggestions)		
Activity 3: flip chart		

[Wait for responses.] Someone please read Revelation 11:18. What do we learn from this text?

Activity No. 2: *Stewards of continents.*

[Ask children to name the continents. Write them on the flip chart. Use a globe or a large world map and help children find any continents they forgot. (Africa, Europe, Asia, North and South America, Australia, and Antarctica.)]

Which continent do we live on? [Have a child identify your country on its continent.]

Every continent has problems. Sin has been in our world so long that our world is not beautiful and perfect the way God created it.

[You may name the problems and have participants identify continents that are experiencing those problems, or the group can generate a list of problems and tell where they are found. The problem list could include: famine; deforestation; endangered species; war; pollution; drought; acid rain; over-population; a hole in the ozone layer;

global warming.]

Are all the problems the same on each continent? [Encourage discussion.]

What are the main problems on our continent? [Encourage responses.]

Activity No. 3: Stewardship ideas for our continent.

What can you do about the problems we discussed in Activity No.2? Can you be a good steward of our continent or a good steward of other continents?

[Have the group brainstorm ideas and list them on the flip chart. Here are some interesting facts you may want to share:]

1. Using recycled paper for one edition of the Sunday New York Times newspaper would save 75,000 trees. If every American recycled only one tenth of their newspapers, it would save 25,000,000 trees each year.

2. If we bought our soda drinks in large containers, or better yet, just drank water, we would save lots of metal soft drink cans plus saving all the energy it takes in order to make the cans and bottles every year. Americans alone throw away enough soft drink cans and bottles every year, that if they were placed end to end they would reach all the way to the moon and back nearly 20 times!

3. Eating less meat would help too. It takes 20 times as much food to raise animals for meat as is needed to grow fruits, nuts, grains, and vegetables. That means the same amount of natural food can either feed 20 people OR be fed to an animal to make enough meat to feed one person.

[Have pictures of endangered animals for volunteers to identify. Show the continents they are from by putting a push pin in the continent and connecting it by a piece of yarn out to the picture of the animal. Pictures of endangered animals could include: rhinoceros, elephant, spotted owl, North American bison, Bengal tiger, Asian elephant, panda bear, emu, coral, turtle, crocodiles, whales, and kiwis.]

For example, producing one pound of beef takes 16 pounds of grain and soybeans and 2,500 gallons of water. That one pound of beef can feed two to four people for lunch, but the 16 pounds of grain and soybeans could feed 32 people. Each year in South America, 27,000,000 acres of forest is cut down in order to raise beef cattle.

[After sharing the information above, challenge the group to choose a project they want to participate in that will help their continent. Here are some projects other groups have chosen:]

1. Make a poster that encourages people to care for the earth.

2. Adopt and support an animal at the local zoo. This requires a small amount of money each month to pay for the animal's food. Be sure to take a field trip to visit your animal at the zoo.

3. Recycle newspapers or aluminum cans. In some places this project generates a small amount of money which can be used for other projects.

4. Adopt a park or playground and periodically pick up the trash. Protect your hands with gloves.

5. Celebrate after your project is finished with a picnic in a clean park.

❑ **Summary**

[Suggested questions to ask:
What did you learn today? What will
you remember this week when you
think of stewardship?]

[Listen carefully to responses,
because you may hear and need to react to a

❑ **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**

misunderstanding of what was studied during
the program.]

