

MY PLACE IN SPACE

Stewardship of My Home



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

Reinforcement Time With Show and Tell Volunteers

What did you learn to avoid in order to keep your lungs healthy? What are you doing to take good care of your kidneys?

[Invite the show and tell volunteers to share what they have brought that illustrates good stewardship of the body. 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 home.]

Introduction: In addition to being good stewards of our bodies, what is the next closest place we are responsible for? [Give hints until either home or bedroom are mentioned. This should be easy because by now the participants will be accustomed to seeing the subtitle prominently displayed.]



Activity No. 1: *Organization.*

[Have participants look at the line of the address on their envelopes from Program 1 which shows their home address, not a P. O. box number. Ask,] "Which of the following best describes your personal space?"

- a. A place for everything and everything in its place.
- b. Tidy most of the time.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Activity 1: envelopes addressed during Program 1; flip chart & marker; a calculator (optional); a sanctuary chart (optional)

Activity 2: live pets or pictures of pets

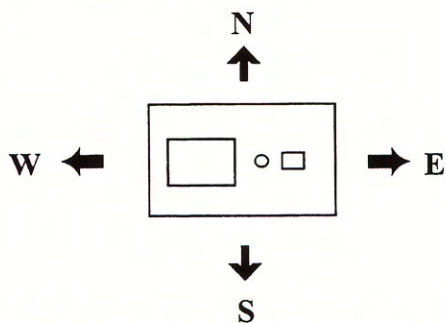
Activity 3: drawing materials

- c. A little messy.
- d. A major disaster area.

What does your bedroom or your personal space have to do with stewardship? [Wait for responses.]

How could you arrange your space to make it a better place or more organized? If Jesus were coming to stay overnight in your bedroom, would you change anything? If so, what? [Allow time after each question for responses.]

The Bible has a very interesting description of the way the Israelite's tents were arranged around the Tabernacle. Let's look at it and decide whether God is interested in organization.



[On a flip chart put arrows for north, south, east, and west. Draw a rectangle in the center for the sanctuary. Have a volunteer read the description in Numbers 2 of the Israelite camp. As he or she reads, have two volunteers work together to mark where each tribe was camped. To assist you with this activity, you will find a Pattern in the back (P-2). Do not show it to the participants. Let them make their own chart with your help.]

[If two or three other participants are mathematically inclined, you might want to have them add up the number of Israelites. A calculator would be helpful.]

How do you think God feels about organization? If organization were not important to God, would He have cared where

they pitched their tents? What do you think the Israelite camp would have been like if everyone had pitched tents anywhere they wanted? [Allow responses to all questions.]



Activity No. 2: Stewardship of our pets.

[If volunteers have brought pets, have them show the animals to the class and tell how they care for them. Or you may bring pets from your home. If no live pets are available, use pictures to illustrate the discussion.]

[Encourage the group to ask questions about the pets. Here are some suggested questions in case you need them to start the interaction: How many pets do you have at your house? How do you give them the right kind of home? What kind of food do they eat? Is there anything else you have to do to be a good steward of your pets?]

Can you think of any Bible stories that show God cares how animals are treated? [the 4th commandment; Balaam's donkey]

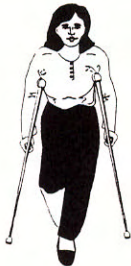


Activity No. 3: *Do stewards help with chores?*

Another part of being a good steward in your home is helping with chores. We help with chores because we are part of the family, and everyone who lives at home has a responsibility to help. But not everybody's chores are the same. Carlos carries out the garbage and helps wash the dishes at his house. But Jared's chores at his house include putting hay out for the horses and gathering the eggs from the chickens. Everybody's chores are different. What kind of chores do you have at your house? And what else do you do to help?

[Have participants draw pictures of the chores they do at their house. Put the pictures on display.]

How many different chores are represented by the entire group? Is it possible to be a good steward at home without doing chores? [Encourage discussion.]



Activity No. 4: *Respect for other people's things.*

Being good stewards at home is more than just taking care of your own things and your own chores. Having respect for other people's things is also important. How do we do that? [Allow time for responses. Examples could be: asking permission before using other people's things; putting them back when we are done with them; not opening other people's mail.]

Michael's mom had a broken leg. She had to use two crutches whenever she walked, but Donnie and Michael enjoyed playing with Mom's crutches. Donnie and Michael found that they were great for sword fighting. But when they forgot to put them back next to Mom's chair, Mom couldn't get up without them. And this would upset her if she needed to go to the kitchen for a drink or to the bathroom. Then she would have to call someone to come and pick up her crutches from the floor and bring them back to her. Was this showing good stewardship of other people's belongings?

Alex liked bouncing his ball in the living room. He had been warned about it several times, but on rainy days when he couldn't play outside, sometimes he forgot. One day as he bounced the ball in the living room it hit Mom's favorite vase. The vase fell on the floor with a crash and broke.

To be a good steward, what would Alex need to do next? [Allow time for responses. Discuss that when we break other people's property, part of being a good steward is to tell them we are sorry, and to do our best to replace what we broke.]

Kevin and Troy had a big fight. Kevin was so angry that he broke into Troy's computer program and wrote mean words all over the pictures Troy had worked hard to make. Later Kevin was sorry, but he could not replace the pictures, and he could not fix them. What should he do to be a good steward?



❑ Closing prayer

Activity No. 5: *Stewards of my family.*

Something else God has given us are the people in our family. We need to be good stewards of people too. How can you be a good steward of the people you live with? [Allow time for discussion. Sample answers would be: reading little brother a story; hugging Mom; taking time for a family night.]

[Have very small groups choose a Bible story where people were good or bad stewards of their family. With very little preparation the small groups can role play for the full group to guess the story.]

❑ **Summary**

[Suggested questions to ask: What did you learn today? Which activity taught you the most about stewardship of the home?]

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



❑ **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.]

