



THE F.A.M.

The Family Actively
on Mission

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Lesson #1 -“Stewardship Perspective”

Series Theme Verse: Joshua 24:15

“But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Overview

Objective: For parents and families to study and reconsider their perspective on stewardship, not just as a monetary idea, but as a whole family way of life.

Main Point: A family that is “Actively on Mission” together will live a life of stewardship in all ways with all things.

Main Scripture: *Joshua 24:15 “But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*

Teaching Outline

Getting Started:

Discussion

- What is the first thought or idea that comes to your mind when I say the word “stewardship”?
- Why do you think “stewardship” is immediately connected in our mind to money?
- What are some other things you can be a “steward” of besides your money?

Getting in the Word

Read and Study: *Joshua 24:15 “But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*

Discussion:

- What are others “gods” that can battle for importance in the life of your family?
- What are other things in our family that can take up our money, time, and priorities?
- How can serving as a family change what is important and what or who is God?

Study Outline

1. Stewardship of your Marriage and Family

- Read and Study: Genesis 1:27-30

Discussion:

- God creates marriage and commands Adam and Eve to start a family, but the verse doesn't stop there.
- What is the stewardship connected to their marriage and their family?

2. Stewardship of your Family's Schedule and Time

- Read and Study: Ephesians 5:15-31

Discussion:

- The passage starts off with instructions about being a wise steward of your time, opportunities, and attitude and then follow with instructions on the marriage relationship and respect.
- Why are these 2 things connect?
- Why would Paul put these things together?

3. Stewardship of your Family's Possessions and Resources

- Read and Study: I John 3:11-18

Discussion:

- This passage starts off talking about love and connects it to a family (Cain and Abel) before it talks about stewardship of our material possessions.
- What is the connection between the story of Cain and Abel and stewardship of our possessions and resources?
- The verse also connects the idea of sacrificial love and material stewardship to our view of others as family (brother or sister).
- Why is that an important idea to be able to teach our children?

4. Stewardship of your Family's Abilities and Gifts:

- Read and Study: I Chronicles 29:6-13

Discussion:

- The passage is about families giving to help build the temple and David's response to God. In verse 12, David's response is about God's wealth and his gift to us of strength.
- Why is being willing to give as a family connected to the stewardship of the strength and of our abilities that God gives us?

Getting Deeper - Conclusion

Much of our personal and family idea of Godly stewardship is connected is money and giving a percentage of our money to God, mainly to church. However, when the Bible talks about stewardship, it is more holistic in speaking of time, resources, and talents as well. There are also strong connections of stewardship to the family and marriage. When it comes to being a “FAM” (a “family actively on mission”), it starts with a better and bigger perspective of stewardship.

Getting Personal - Challenge

- Are your family members wise stewards of their time and schedules, or have you allowed the “gods” and “idols” of this world to take over your calendar this week?
- What are the resources and possessions your family has that are sitting unused around your house while you buy more? What things honestly do you not need a newer version of or another one of in your home?
- What are the places both inside and outside the church your family could serve a few hours a week or a month?

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Lesson #2 -“Social Awareness”

Series Theme Verse: Joshua 24:15

“But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Overview

Objective: For parents and families to become more socially aware and have a Biblical understanding of God’s heart on issues of justice, poverty, and spending.

Main Point: A family that is “Actively on Mission” together will seek justice, care for the poor, and spend their money wisely.

Main Scripture: *Is. 1:15-18* “When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood! Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow though they are red as crimson they shall be like wool.”

Teaching Outline

Getting Started

Discussion:

- What, in your opinion, is the biggest social injustice in our country currently? What about globally?
- What is something in the news this week that has caught your attention?
- Do you ever discuss social justice issues or injustices with your children at home?
- What do you think the church’s role is in social injustices? What about the family’s role?

Getting in the Word

- Review Series Verse: *Joshua 24:15* “But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Discussion:

The context of this verse is a nation of families (tribes) going into a new land to claim their future as the people of God. God had laid out some rules about how to live in the new land as a new kind of people. In those rules were instructions about justice and social justice.

- How does the nation do in the future?

Key Verse/Lesson Introduction: Read and Study: Is.1:15-18**Discussion:**

- What did God desire for the families of Israel, and what does He desire for us and our families?
- What was happening in the nation of Israel with God's people? Does that sound familiar?

Study Outline

1. Justice Awareness

Read and Study: Jer. 22:11-17

Discussion:

God is speaking through the prophet Jeremiah to Josiah's son, Shallum, about how he did not follow his Father's example of justice.

- What was the result of the son not learning and following the Father's example?

2. Poverty Awareness

Read and Study: Deut. 15:7-11

Discussion:

The passage uses the word "brother" which can be used literally and figuratively as each area of the promise land was given to a family (tribe).

- What are the instructions about taking care of the poor?

Discussion:

The final verse (11) makes a statement "there will never cease to be poor in your land." In Matt. 26:11, Jesus also makes a similar statement.

- How does this statement change our perspective on national and global poverty?

3. Spending Awareness

Read and Study: Amos 8:4-6

Discussion:

In the time of Amos, people were more concerned with working and making more money than God. They were also doing things in their business practices to cheat others. They were even cheating the poorest people in their nation.

- What were the ways they were cheating people?
- What is the cost of buying an expensive "pair of shoes?"
- Instead of giving the poor the best food what were they giving them instead?

Getting Deeper - Conclusion

A family that is “actively on mission” will know and care about the social justice issues in their nation and globally. They will be having open and honest discussion on injustice and poverty. They will be preparing their family to serve by understanding the “why” and the “what” before figuring out the “how”.

A family that is “actively on mission” will also consider how they are spending their money. Beyond giving money to the poor, they will also consider what they are spending their money on. They will seek to research where some of the products they are purchasing are coming from and how the workers may be being treated.

Getting Personal - Challenge

- How are you setting a legacy and an example for your children of caring about others and social injustice?
- Have you had discussions and talked about social issues in your home?
- What are the things you have taught your children about “being poor” or “poverty”?
- What are the stereotypes that you, your family, and your children have about homelessness? poor sections of your area/town/city?
- Have you and your family ever sat down and researched “Fair Trade” products?

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Lesson #3 –“Serving Together”

Series Theme Verse: Joshua 24:15

“But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Overview

* Objective: For parents and families to prepare themselves and their children to actively serve others at home, church, school and elsewhere as part of God’s mission.

* Main Point: As a family that is “Actively on Mission” together they will seek to reflect Christ by serving others.

* Main Scripture: Mark 10: 43-45: Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Teaching Outline

Getting Started:

Discussion

- What are the ways your children serve around the house? Around the church? In their school? In your neighborhood?
- Where do your children see you serving in your home? Around the church? At your job? In your neighborhood?
- Who is someone you have seen or can think of that is a great example of humbly serving others (*besides Jesus)?
- What discussions do you have in your home about serving others?

Getting in the Word

Review Series Verse: *Joshua 24:15 “But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*

Discussion:

- What does it look like to you for a family to “Serve the Lord Together”? What are the ways a family could “Serve the Lord Together”?
- How can you “choose” to serve God every day as a family?

Theme Verse/Introduction:

Mark 10: 43-45: Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Discussion: The story in Mark is about two brothers that were arguing over who was better. I am sure this happens in your house. They were discussing who deserved the better seat next to Jesus in heaven. Jesus turns the discussion around to talk about serving others. What are the ways we can teach our children to serve each other at home before we go out and serve others?

Study Outline

1. Serving Together Starts with Christ

Read and Study: Phil. 2:1-8

Discussion:

- The verses are an encouragement of unity in Christ by being “imitators” of Christ in various ways. What are the ways?
- Verse 7 uses the phrase “nature of a servant.” What does that mean to you?

2. Serving Together Starts at Attitude

Read and Study: Gal. 5:13-15

Discussion:

- Paul uses the family relationship (“brother and sister”) as a model of our attitude and view of each other as Christians. How are we serving each other per this verse?
- What is the command that sums up the entire law?
- What is the warning that might sound a whole lot like family life and “attitudes”?

3. Serving Together Starts at Home

Read and Study: I John 3:11-18

Discussion:

- We have looked at this verse a few weeks back in connect to stewardship. Looking at verse 17, we see serving others starts by serving each other at home. Once again there is a tie between family, serving, and serving as Christ served. Why is the home such an important, and sometimes also difficult place, to learn how to serve?

Getting Deeper - Conclusion

Serving as a family starts with teaching our children who Christ was and is and modeling Him in front of them as we serve. A family must learn to serve each other like Christ, with a Christ-like attitude before they go out to serve the world. It is easier to go serve at church or at a homeless shelter where those people are not living with you or seeing you regularly.

Before a family goes out of their home to serve their world, they need to make sure they know how to serve in the place that God has placed them first, their home. Genesis 1, God created marriage and family first and gave them an active mission together.

Getting Personal - Challenge

- How are you modeling Christ-like servanthood in front of your family? How and where are your children learning Christ-like servanthood?
- How is your attitude toward serving others? How is your children's attitude toward serving around the house and each other?
- What are the simple ways as a family you are serving together around your house? Church? Neighborhood? Community?
- Where would be a place that you would love to go on for a day or on a trip to serve as family?
- Have you ever considered spending a day-off from work and school serving others?
- Have you ever considered taking part (or all) of your vacation to go on a mission trip or serve somewhere?