

One BRMC Small Group Study

Stewardship Sunday

Participant's Copy

Please note that this study guide accompanies the pulpit sermon on 26 July 2020.

Scripture Passage:
Ecclesiastes 11:1-5 (NKJV)

Context:

Today, we observe Stewardship Sunday. Stewardship Sunday is when we take some time to reflect and examine how we have used our resources, whether be it time or money. Have we been keeping these tight-fisted or have we been using these to further the kingdom of God? Take some time during this study to reflect both individually and as a group on how we have been using the resources that God has given us.

Introductory

1. In Ecclesiastes 11:1-2, the author gives 2 examples of how to be wise with the crops that a farmer has grown. What do you think the author was trying to convey about wisdom?
2. In Ecclesiastes 11:3-4, the author provides examples of the flow of natural consequences: rainclouds collect and pour out rain, a tree that is cut falls in the direction that it is cut, and a person who watches the wind and looks at clouds will not sow or reap. These natural consequences flow from both the design of God and the action (or inaction) of man. Where do you put your confidence or hope in: entirely in the natural design of God, in the will and action of man, or is there a balance?

Reflection

3. How does the unpredictable future change our attitude towards our wealth?

4. How can we be wise for the future, yet look past our present circumstances to ensure that we are storing up treasures in heaven? What sacrifices might you need to make to ensure that you remain committed to being part of God's work on earth?

Application

5. Knowing that God takes care of us in our struggles, how does that change the way we steward our provisions from God? Do we become more generous or less generous?

Prayer

6. Write out a prayer for yourself based on what you have heard and learned from this session.

(a) What is in your heart for yourself?

- Perhaps you need to confess that you have fallen short in your confidence in the Lord. Bring it into the Light of Christ and surrender your insecurities and anxieties to God:

"Father in heaven, I confess that I have been burdened by my circumstances and I have not truly placed my trust in You. Father, I am sorry for what I have done in trusting in myself rather than in You. I now surrender these anxieties and insecurities to you trusting in Your word: to cast my burdens onto Jesus because He cares for me. Fill me with the assurance of Your everlasting love.

In Jesus' name. Amen"

(b) What is in your heart for others?

- Perhaps you feel led to pray for those who are struggling under these difficult times. Give them to the Lord and pray also for ways in which you can provide practical help:

"Merciful Father, I thank you for *(name/s of family and/or friend/s)* Lord I trust that you are Sovereign over their life. I commit *(name/s of family and/or friend/s)* urgent needs to you and rely on Your promise that You will cause all things to work for the good of those who love You and are called according to Your purposes. Give me

wisdom as to how to minister to them and show them how much You love them. In Jesus' name, Amen."

- It is always useful to collate these prayers and to refer to them for thanksgiving and sharing next week.