



Children and Youth Stewardship Commitment

Parents: This fall, we are asking all the children and youth in our church to prayerfully think about how they will committee to serving God in 2023. Below is a short devotion you can share with your children to help them understand what it means to be a steward to God and their church. This a great conversation starter for the whole family. Then, we want to ask you to look over the included commitment card with your child, answer any questions he/she may have, and help them consider how they can help serve their church in the coming year. Please return the commitment card to the church by Nov. 20, 2022.

Family Devotion: What is Stewardship?

Ask: Have you heard the word "steward" before? What do you think it means? *(A steward is someone who takes care of something for someone else. Like librarians are stewards of the books at the library. They don't own them, but they take care of them.)*

Ask: What are some things that you are take care of at home, at school or at church?

Ask: Did you know that God has made each of us stewards? We are all stewards over the things that God entrusts to us.

Say: We'll hear a parable, or story, about 3 servants who were responsible for their master's money.

Pray that God would open their hearts to His Word today and that He would stir our hearts to be good stewards of His creation and that we would give back to Him with thankful hearts.

Tell the Story – Matthew 25: 14-30

Using the pennies to tell is especially helpful for visual learners and younger children.

Ask: Did you know that God gives us responsibilities too?

God has blessed each of us with unique gifts, and we are responsible to use them for God's glory! God calls us to use our blessings for His glory and the good of other people.

Our story is a parable that Jesus told. A parable is a story that was used to explain something, and Jesus often told parables to describe what the kingdom of heaven is like. One day Jesus told a parable about a man who went on a journey...

Once there was a man who was getting ready for a trip. As he prepared to leave he called three of his servants to him. The man owned a lot of property and he wanted to put these servants in charge of all that he owned while he was away.

To the first servant he gave 5 talents. In those days a talent was a coin that was worth more than \$1000! The man gave 2 talents to the second servant, and the last servant got 1 talent. Then the man headed out on his journey.

Ask: If you were one of those servants, what do you think you would have done with the talent?

The servant with 5 talents used it to make 5 more talents. Now he had 10 talents!

The man with 2 talents did the same and ended up with 4 talents. But the man with one talent dug a hole and hid it in the ground.

Ask: When the master returns, how do you think he will react?

After a while the master did return and he told the servants to bring his money back. The servant with the 10 talents came to him and said, "Master, you gave me 5 talents, look! I have used them to gain 5 more." The master was very pleased with him and said, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things."

Then the second servant came and presented the master with his 4 talents. The master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things."

Lastly, the third servant came before the master and said, "Master, I know that you are a hard man. You harvest where you have not sown and you gather where you have not scattered seed. So, I was afraid and hid your money in the ground. Here is the 1 talent you gave to me." The master was very angry that the servant had not been wise with what he had given him. So, the master took away the talent and gave it to the servant that had 10.

The he said, “Everyone who was will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.”

Reflect on the Story: Choose at least one way to reflect on this story.

Wrapping Up

Ask: How might God be calling our family to be good stewards? What has God given us that we could share with others?

Our church has given us sheets to make a commitment to serve God in the next year. We are going to take time over the next couple of weeks to think and pray about how God is asking us to share our gifts with others.

Using the commitment sheet, read the ways that children can commit to serve God in 2023. Answer any questions they might have about what each area means. Put the cards somewhere you will see them regularly and remind your children of them. They are due back to the church by Nov. 20th.

Close with Prayer

Gracious God, thank you for giving us so many gifts. Help us to see how we can share them with others in the next year as we share your love and grace with the world. Amen.



Children and Youth Stewardship Commitment Card:
Please check each item you are willing to commit to this year.

- Prayers – Spent time talking to God every day.
- Worship God – Either online at home or Ada First UMC
- Witness – Tell my friends and family about God’s love.
- Tithe – Giving my offering to the work of God through the church.
- Service – Share my talent of _____ with the church.
- Service – Serve the community by _____.

Child’s Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this form to the church by Nov. 20, 2022