

FAMILY TOOLBOX



SERIES

TEACHING KIDS ABOUT STEWARDSHIP



Children's Ministry

Golden Hills Community Church

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A Note to Families

The Children's Ministry of Golden Hills Community Church exists to "*Glorify God by helping families develop age-appropriate disciples who impact their world for Christ*".

In order to accomplish this task, we at GHCC have attempted to describe the discipleship of a believer, which includes these three elements:

- **Worship**
- **Grow**
- **Serve**

We believe that children, as followers of Christ, can also participate in the discipleship process. We have further identified twelve specific spiritual growth issues within these three elements of discipleship.

It is our desire in Children's Ministry, to create a balanced program, which addresses all of these spiritual growth issues, helping to produce a healthy, age-appropriate disciple.

However, statistics tell us that the national average for children attending Sunday school is 26 hours each year (that's only half of the time). And our church is no exception to this. Our average Sunday attendance is roughly half of our total registration. What does this mean? Well, we could have the best programming, the best teachers and staff (which, by the way, I think we do) and we would still have a very hard time in accomplishing the goal God has set before us. But there is a way.

The way in which we can realize the goal of making age-appropriate disciples is stated in our purpose: "...by helping *families* develop age-appropriate disciples..." In fact, the best approach to aiding your child's faith development is *not* in the formal setting of the church, but in the informal, everyday life of your home. God's Word clearly reminds us of this in Deuteronomy 6:4-7:

"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. The commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress (teach) them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, and when you walk along the road, when you lie down at night and when you get up."

We encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity to "impress upon your children" spiritual truth. Use dinner conversation, driving in the car, bedtime routines and getting ready each morning as times to reflect and teach about God and his faithfulness.

To help you in these discussions, we have developed a series of tools for you to use. These tools are series of booklets (**THE FAMILY TOOLBOX SERIES**), each addressing the spiritual growth issues. In them you will find information, discussion questions and activity suggestions to help you guide your children on their spiritual journeys.

Introduction

Christian stewardship-what is it? According to the dictionary, a steward is “one who serves on an estate to manage domestic concerns such as collecting rent, handling accounts, directing servants, etc.”.

Christian stewardship, however, is both an attitude and an action. It begins with attitude, our desire to please God. We want to please God by giving back to Him a portion of what He has so richly blessed us with. It is using everything we have the way God wants us to use it. We want our kids to see the importance of giving their time, talents and treasure (or material possessions) to God in grateful response to what He has done (Romans 12:1).

When we speak of stewardship, we often focus on money. But it is more than that. Stewardship involves our total responsibility to care for all God has given us in a way that pleases Him. Children have God-given talents and skills that need to be developed for use in the body of Christ. They also have at least one spiritual gift that is to be discovered and developed for use in the body (see *Spiritual Gifts and Your Child*, part of the **FAMILY TOOLBOX SERIES**).

Pastor Mark

What We Want Our Kids To Know (good for the rest of us too!)

1. Some Basic Stewardship Principles

A. God is the source of *all* our resources

* 1 Chronicles 29:14

* James 1:17

B. God provides us with the ultimate example of stewardship

* 2 Corinthians 8:9

* John 3:16

C. Our Stewardship is a grateful response to God

* Romans 11:33-12:2

* 1 Peter 4:10

2. Financial Stewardship Principles

A. God is faithful to meet our needs-not necessarily our wants

* Matthew 6:1-13, 33

* Philippians 4:17-19

B. God desires to meet others' needs through us

* Matthew 25:31-46

* 1 John 3:16-17

C. This also includes our family and our government

* 1 Timothy 5:8

* Matthew 22:21

D. One offers what they have to God

* Mark 12:41-44

* Acts 4:32-5:4

E. A biblical pattern: *Tithes* and *Offerings*

* Malachi 3

* Matthew 23:23

[Tithe= 1/10 of our resources given back to God.

Offering= sacrificial giving beyond our tithe]

A Simple Stewardship Strategy for Parents

Want to teach your kids to give, but don't know where to start? Here are a few simple steps any parent can take. These steps are a series of concrete, attainable steps you can use as a jumping-off point for your own ideas.

1. **Give generously yourselves.** If you want your children to become givers, you have to give them an example to follow.
2. **Use family devotions.** You can use the previous outline to teach your kids what the Bible says about stewardship at home.
3. **Expose your kids to ministry.** Let your kids see for themselves the many opportunities that exist to give to the Lord.
4. **Get your kids started.** Give them a sum of money with the assignment to give it away to a ministry of their choice. Then let them move on to regularly giving of their own money to the church.

Kids Giving Project

Here is a project designed for your kids to work through to teach them to be givers.

God has given everything you have to you. He wants you to share with others. Are you willing to do that?

Choose one of the giving projects from this list. Complete the statement by telling exactly what you will do or whom you will help.

I will give _____ (amount of time) to help _____ (someone you know who needs something done).

I will give or send _____ (amount of money) to a missionary to help tell others about Jesus.

I will save money by not buying _____ . I will give that money to the church.

I will earn extra money by _____ (what you will do) and send it to an organization for needy children.

With my parent's permission, I will give _____ (a possession that means a lot to you) to someone my age that doesn't have much.

If you don't want to do any of these projects, think of something else you will do to share what God has given you.

Jesus said we should give in secret, but you can tell your parents.

Remember, God doesn't want us to just talk about giving to others; He wants us to do it! When we cheerfully give to other people (and to God), we share His love (see 1 John 3:17-18).

The Spiritual Growth Issues:

Worship

- Salvation
- Worship

Grow

- Bible knowledge/Application
- Bible Memory
- Stewardship
- Healthy Relationships
- Using Gifts, Talents and Skills
- Church Commitment

Serve

- Outreach
- Missions Involvement
- Christian Service