

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALT LAKE CITY



A Christian Steward is one who:

- Receives God's gifts with gratitude
- Cherishes and tends gifts in a responsible and accountable manner
- Shares gifts in justice and love with others
- Returns gifts with increase to the Lord

Bishops' Pastoral Letter of 1992
Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

Office of Stewardship and Development
Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade Curriculum

*“Gratitude
in
Action”*



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STEWARDSHIP
Gratitude in Action
Fourth Grade & Fifth Grade Curriculum

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Note: *Prior to beginning this unit of study, please create a Stewardship Journal for each student (or help them to create one).*

It will need a cover, and at least 18 pages.

A copy of a journal template is included with this lesson plan.



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Lesson 1: We Are Called to Follow Jesus

(adapted from Loyola Press' Christ Our Light Series, Grade 4, Chapter 7)

Scripture Reading (choose one)

A reading from ...

- Psalm 119: 105

Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light for my path.^p

- Hosea 6: 6 Love as the Truest Offering

I want you to show love,^a
not offer sacrifices.
I want you to know me^b
more than I want burnt offerings.

- Micah 6: 8

You have been told, O mortal, what is good,
and what the LORD requires of you:

Only to do justice and to love goodness,
and to walk humbly with your God.^f

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Teaching for the Day

- Worship is the human response to God's greatness and holiness
- We worship God by praying and through service, but especially through the Eucharist.
- We can make each day a gift of love.
- We can unite our prayers, works, joys and sufferings with Jesus' perfect offering.
- Saints have honored God with their lives of praise.
- Identify ways to honor God through lives of praise and loving service.



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Activity

Materials:

- Loyola Press' The Saint Kit, or their online saint of the day resource.
 - ISBN 978-0-8294-0800-3
 - 189 pages
 - \$69.95
- [www.catholic.org's](http://www.catholic.org) Saint of the Day Calendar.

Or

- <http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/bydate.aspx>
- Saint of the Day Calendar and app.

USE STEWARDSHIP JOURNAL PAGES 2 AND 3

Ask students to choose a favorite saint (see an example of St. Teresa below, for those students who may not be familiar with a saint yet) and read or learn about them using the materials (above). Ask students to identify the way the saint honored God in their life. The teacher may want to model this for the students with their own favorite saint.

Example: (taken from www.americancatholic.org)

Teresa lived in an age of exploration as well as political, social and religious upheaval. It was the 16th century, a time of turmoil and reform. She was born before the Protestant Reformation and died almost 20 years after the closing of the Council of Trent.

The gift of God to Teresa in and through which she became holy and left her mark on the Church and the world is threefold: She was a woman; she was a contemplative; she was an active reformer.

As a woman, Teresa stood on her own two feet, even in the man's world of her time. She was "her own woman," entering the Carmelites despite strong opposition from her father. She is a person wrapped not so much in silence as in mystery. Beautiful, talented, outgoing, adaptable, affectionate, courageous, enthusiastic, she was totally human. Like Jesus, she was a mystery of paradoxes: wise, yet practical; intelligent, yet much in tune with her experience; a mystic, yet an energetic reformer. A holy woman, a womanly woman.

Teresa was a woman "for God," a woman of prayer, discipline and compassion. Her heart belonged to God. Her ongoing conversion was an arduous lifelong struggle, involving ongoing purification and suffering. She was misunderstood, misjudged, opposed in her efforts at reform. Yet she struggled on, courageous and faithful; she struggled with her own mediocrity, her illness, her opposition. And in the midst of



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all this she clung to God in life and in prayer. Her writings on prayer and contemplation are drawn from her experience: powerful, practical and graceful. A woman of prayer; a woman for God.

Teresa was a woman "for others." Though a contemplative, she spent much of her time and energy seeking to reform herself and the Carmelites, to lead them back to the full observance of the primitive Rule. She founded over a half-dozen new monasteries. She traveled, wrote, fought—always to renew, to reform. In her self, in her prayer, in her life, in her efforts to reform, in all the people she touched, she was a woman for others, a woman who inspired and gave life.

Her writings, especially the *Way of Perfection* and *The Interior Castle*, have helped generations of believers.

In 1970, the Church gave her the title she had long held in the popular mind: doctor of the Church. She and St. Catherine of Siena (April 29) were the first women so honored.

Comment:

Ours is a time of turmoil, a time of reform and a time of liberation. Modern women have in Teresa a challenging example. Promoters of renewal, promoters of prayer, all have in Teresa a woman to reckon with, one whom they can admire and imitate.

Quote:

Teresa knew well the continued presence and value of suffering (physical illness, opposition to reform, difficulties in prayer), but she grew to be able to embrace suffering, even desire it: "Lord, either to suffer or to die." Toward the end of her life she exclaimed: "Oh, my Lord! How true it is that whoever works for you is paid in troubles! And what a precious price to those who love you if we understand its value."

Closing Prayer: Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila

Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things pass. God does not change. Patience achieves everything. Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people.



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Lesson 2: Disciples as Stewards

(adapted from USCCB's adaptation of the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship and <http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/CU/ac0805.asp>)

Scripture Reading (choose one)

A reading from ...

- Matthew 4:20
Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

- 1 Peter 4:10
"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace"

- Ephesians 5:1-2
Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

- Luke 21: 1-4
^a When he looked up he saw some wealthy people putting their offerings into the treasury²and he noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins.³He said, "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest;⁴for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood."

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Teaching for the Day

- God created you, loves you, and gave you special gifts to use to praise and worship him.
- These gifts make you a special and unique disciple of Christ. God asks you to use these gifts to build his Kingdom on Earth. He wants you to use the time, talents, and treasure he has blessed you with to do this.
- As members of the Church, Jesus calls us to be disciples.
 - That means
 - Disciples make a decision to follow Jesus, no matter what the cost. They have an "attitude of gratitude."
 - Christian disciples experience conversion—life shaping changes of mind and heart—and commit their very selves to the Lord. You shouldn't have to think about being a steward



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- of the Church. Your every thought, word and action to proclaim that.
- Stewardship has the power to shape and mold our understanding of our lives and the way in which we live.
- Use your time, talents, or treasure to show your attitude of gratitude.

Activity

Materials:

- USE STEWARDSHIP JOURNAL PAGES 4 AND 5

Students should identify gifts that God has given them, with which they can help build God's Kingdom. Remind them of last month's session that ended with Teresa of Avila's Prayer, "Christ has no hands but yours."

Share examples of good stewardship:

- A plastic surgeon who makes a handsome income, contributes generously to his church, but also spends two weeks a year in a remote village in the Caribbean, employing his talent: repairing cleft palates and disfiguring burns that have marginalized these unpaying but no less needy "patients."
- A woman who cleans offices in Alaska who contributes her "widow's mite" each week, but also beautifully arranges the altar flowers and lovingly irons the altar cloths used in the liturgies.

Ask students to journal to themselves on the following three questions:

1. Where can I help?
2. What are the needs here?
3. What difference can I—me, specifically me, with what I have to offer—what difference can I make?

Closing Prayer

Oh Great and Awesome God,

Thank you for the example of the widow and her "mites." May she inspire me to give as I am able. Help me, Lord, to know what it means for me to give generously and sacrificially. Amen.



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Lesson 3: Stewards of Creation

Scripture Reading (choose one)

A reading from ...

Genesis 1

¹ In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth,
² the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness.

³ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." Thus evening came, and morning followed--the first day.

Then God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other." And so it happened:

God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it.

God called the dome "the sky." Evening came, and morning followed--the second day.

Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear." And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared.

God called the dry land "the earth," and the basin of the water he called "the sea." God saw how good it was.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it." And so it happened:

the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was.

Evening came, and morning followed--the third day.

Then God said: "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth." And so it happened:

God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars

God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth,

to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness.

God saw how good it was.



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Evening came, and morning followed--the fourth day.

Then God said, "Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky." And so it happened:

God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was,

and God blessed them, saying, "Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth."

Evening came, and morning followed--the fifth day.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds." And so it happened:

God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was.

⁴ Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth."

God also said: "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food." And so it happened.

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed--the sixth day.

Teaching for the Day

The Bible contains a profound message about the stewardship of material creation: God created the world, but entrusts it to human beings. Caring for and cultivating the world involves the following:

- Joyful appreciation for the God-given beauty and wonder of nature;
- Protection and preservation of the environment, which would be the stewardship of ecological concern;
- Respect for human life—shielding life from threat and assault, doing everything that can be done to enhance this gift and make life flourish; and



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- Development of this world through noble human effort—physical labor, the trades and professions, the arts and sciences. We call such effort "work." Work is a fulfilling human vocation.

The Second Vatican Council points out that, through work, we build up not only our world but also the Kingdom of God, already present among us. Work is a partnership with God—our share in a divine human collaboration in creation. It occupies a central place in our lives as Christian stewards.

- Comprehension through organization of ideas.
Ask students to help the teacher record the order of creation.
On the board write each day and its creation event.
- Understanding through prediction and critical/creative thinking.
At the end of the story, ask students to predict what God did on the 7th Day. Most will probably, due to prior knowledge, say "rest". Which is true. The teacher then reveals that a man named Zohar said that the following happened. Zohar: "On the 6th day, having created man, God said to him, 'I have worked heretofore, now you shall continue.'"
If God told you to continue his creation, made you a steward, or caretaker of creation, what would you do?

How do we make sure that the Earth continues its creation and being?

The teacher may then refer to the coloring pages. The teacher may ask each student to relate each page to a way Earth Day may be celebrated.

Examples:

Day 1	Night and Day (air)	Air and light pollution
Day 2	Water (in the sky and below)	Water pollution
Day 3	Dry land and plants	Recycling, reducing, reuse
Day 4	Lights in the sky (air)	Air pollution
Day 5	Water creatures	Water pollution habitat and nature conservancy
Day 6	Land animals and humans	Nature and habitat conservancy

Activity

Materials:

- USE STEWARDSHIP JOURNAL PAGES 6 AND 7
- Creation coloring pages (<http://www.coloring.ws/creation.htm>), also included this in lesson plan.



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Ask students to come up with one or two ways that they would choose to take God up on his offer to be co-creators. How could each care for one of the days of creation?

Ask students to choose one of the days of creation for which they would like to be a caretaker. Once they have chosen their day of creation, ask the students to read over the Bible verse at the bottom of each page. (<http://www.coloring.ws/creation.htm>)

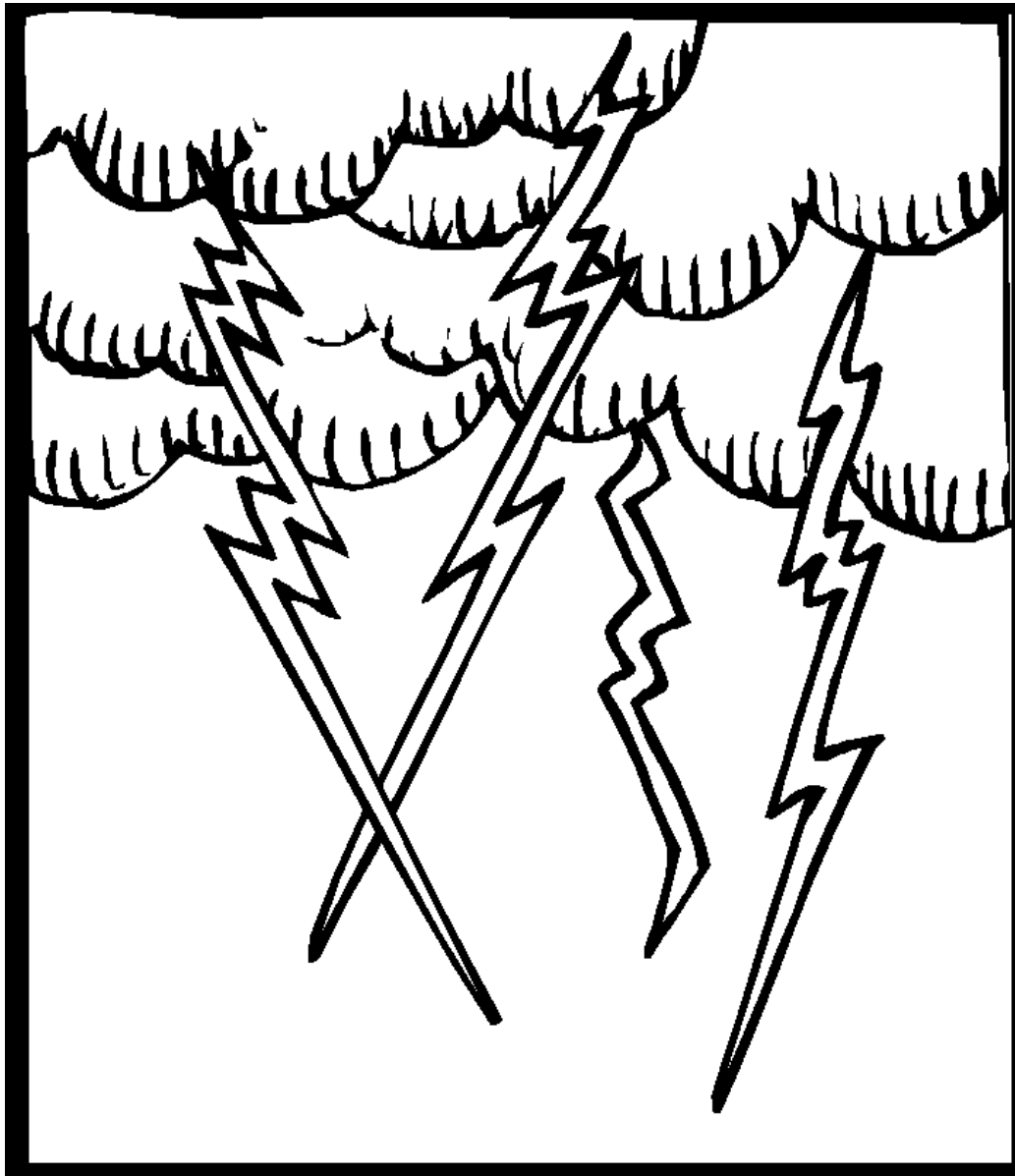
Have students free draw one of the days of creation, or color one of the pages provided. The teacher should wander around the room to each student and learn why each student has chosen their particular part of creation. Ask students to write at the top of their paper how they pledge to take care of this part of God's creation.



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Genesis 1:1-5 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

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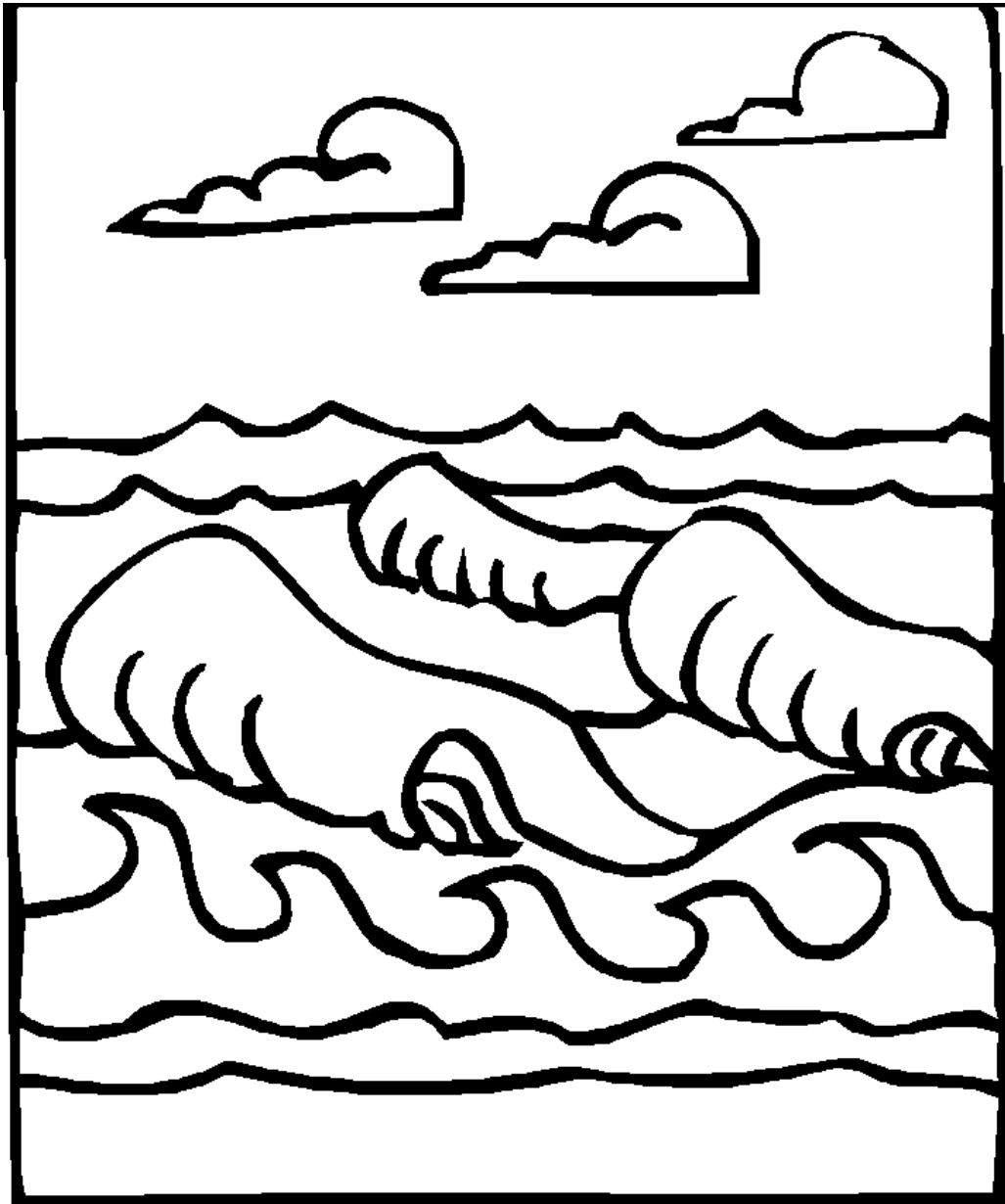
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Genesis 1:6-8 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

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Genesis 1:9-13 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day

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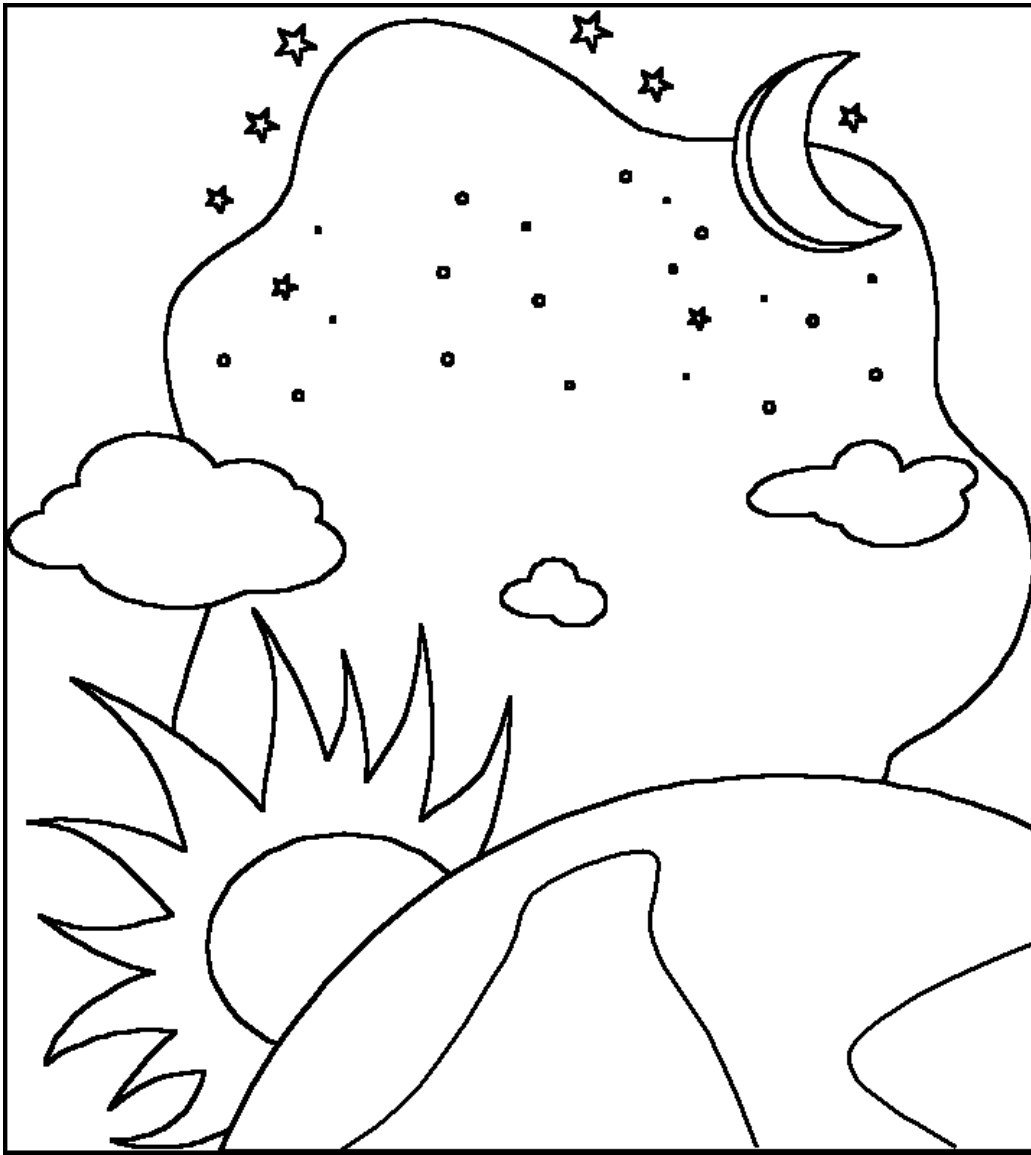
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Genesis 1:14-19 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day

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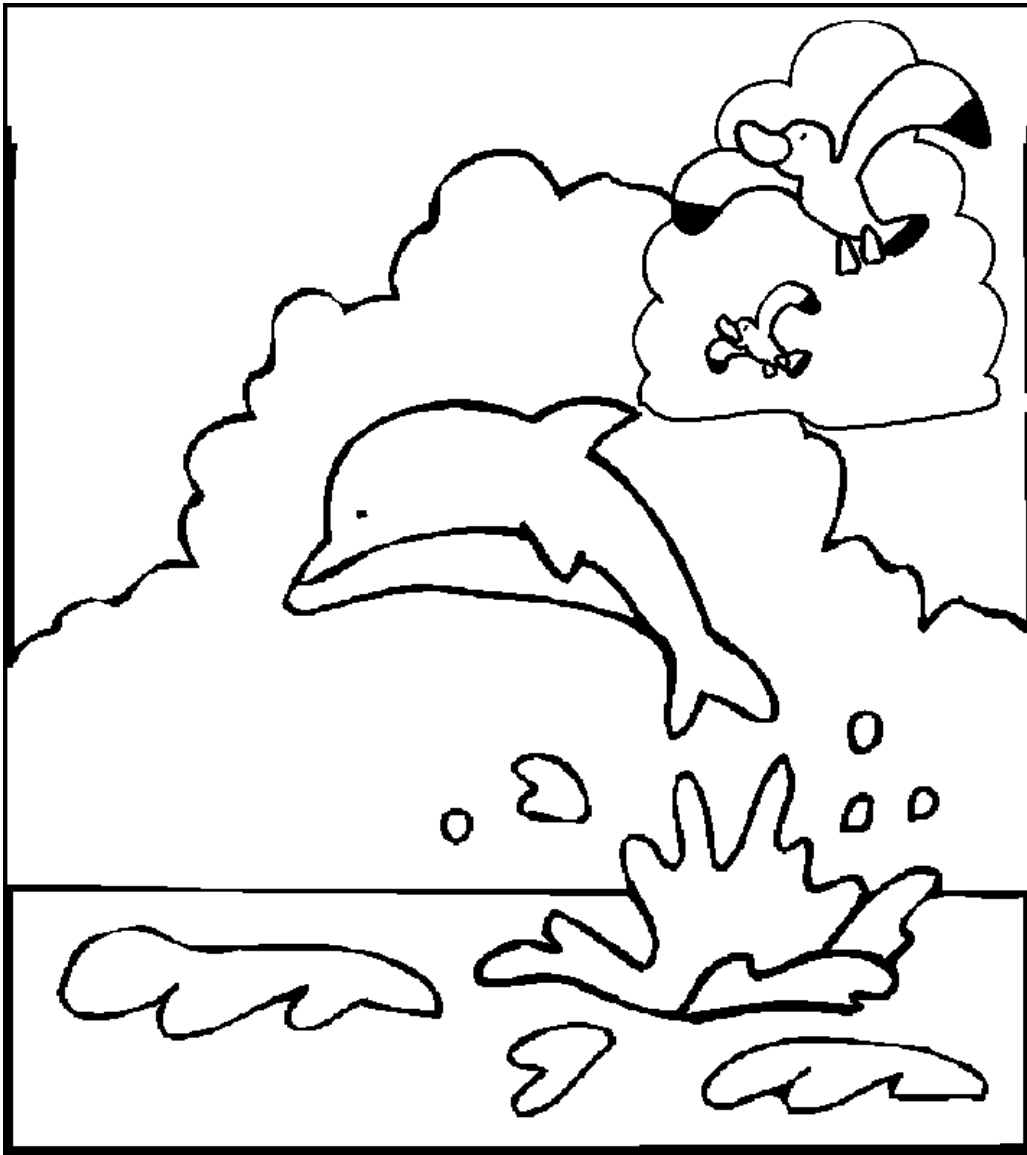
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Genesis 1:20-23 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

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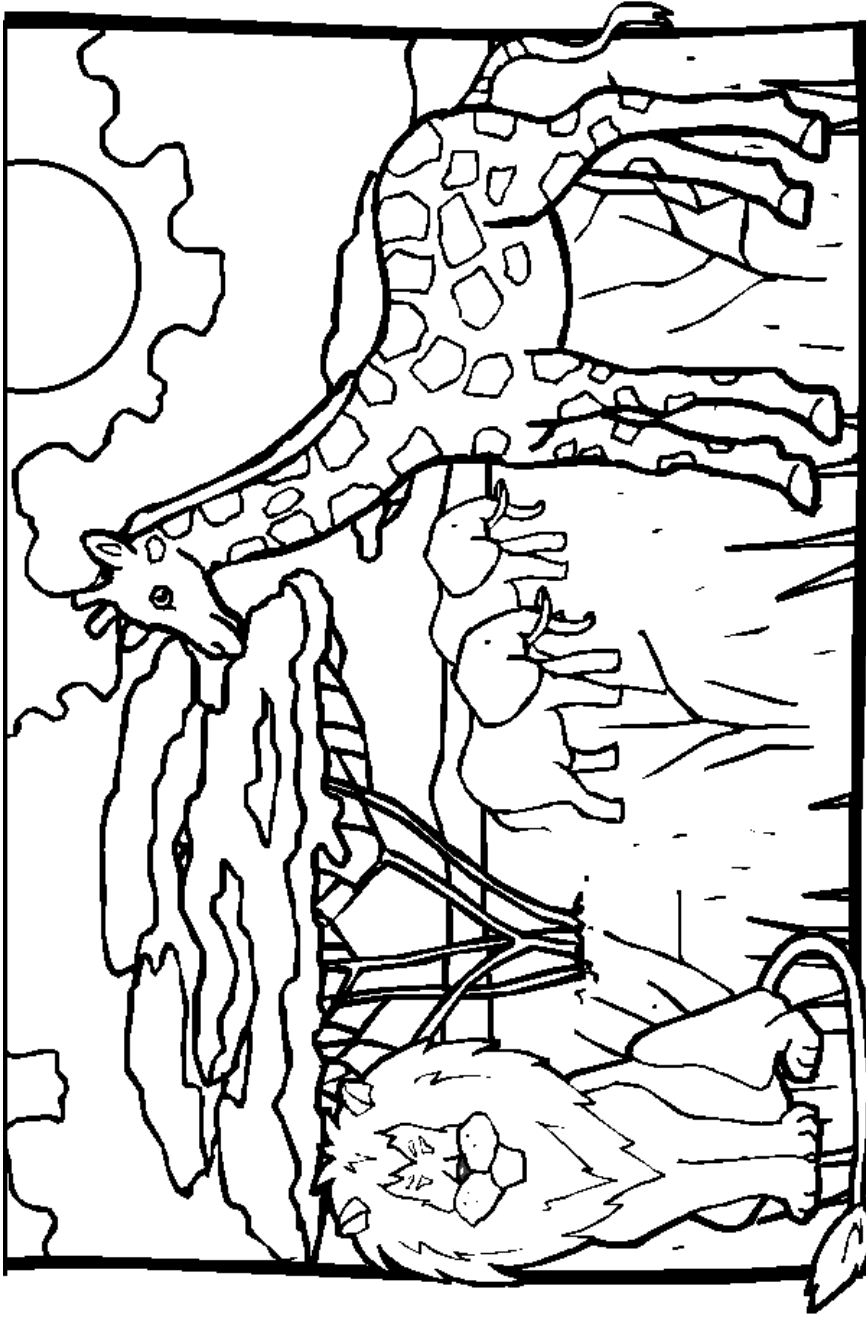
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Genesis 1:24-31 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

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Lesson 4: Stewards of Vocation

<http://www.ascensioncatholic.net/pastors-column/living-a-stewardship-way-of-life/>

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/CU/preview.aspx?id=246>

Scripture Reading (choose one)

A reading from ...

- **1 Sam 3: 1-10**

During the time young Samuel was minister to the LORD under Eli, the word of the LORD was scarce and vision infrequent.^{2*} One day Eli was asleep in his usual place. His eyes had lately grown so weak that he could not see.³ The lamp of God was not yet extinguished,^{*} and Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was.^a ⁴The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am."⁵ He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli answered. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep.⁶ Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But he answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep."

⁷Samuel did not yet recognize the LORD, since the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.⁸ The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth.⁹ So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" When Samuel went to sleep in his place,¹⁰ the LORD came and stood there, calling out as before: Samuel, Samuel! Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

- **Mt 5: 1-12**

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,^{*}
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.^a

^{4*} Blessed are they who mourn,^b

for they will be comforted.

^{5*} Blessed are the meek,^c

for they will inherit the land.



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6Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,*

for they will be satisfied.

7Blessed are the merciful,

for they will be shown mercy.^d

8* Blessed are the clean of heart,^e

for they will see God.

9Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God.

10Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,*

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.^f

11Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me.^g12* Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.^h Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- **Mark 12: 28-31**

28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’ⁱ 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’^j 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^k There is no commandment greater than these.”

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Teaching for the Day

- The mission of the Church is to proclaim the Kingdom of God to the community. Our efforts should be to build the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.
- Every baptized Catholic is called to do this. This is called our vocation to discipleship.



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- Like Samuel's call, God calls us to play a unique role in the church. "He calls us individually, by name. Each one of us—clergy, religious, lay person; married, single; adult, child—has a personal vocation. God intends each one of us to play a unique role in carrying out the divine plan."
- One of the ways Jesus calls us to do this is through the Beatitudes.

Activity

Materials:

- USE STEWARDSHIP JOURNAL PAGES 8 AND 9.

Discuss with students how when you tell someone that you love them that is a powerful statement. However, to show someone that you love him or her is a far greater act.

Optional: You could use the scene from *Princess Bride* to illustrate this (if time allows). It is the scene where Wesley always answers Buttercup's requests by saying, "As you wish." And it is revealed that when he was saying that, that he was saying he loved her.

Make a weekly schedule: The Stewardship of Time

Time is a precious gift, and part of the Catholic belief in Stewardship. Everyone is given the same amount of time. Twenty-four hours each day, 168 hours each week, etc... Most of us feel there isn't time to do everything we want to do. So, let's examine how we use God's gift of time.

Distribute a weekly calendar. Ask students to consider how they are using their time. Prompt them with...

- How much time do you give to God (go to class, study the Bible, Catholic beliefs, or pray)?
- How much time do you spend playing, or exercising?
- How much time do you spend watching TV? On the computer/iPad/iPhone/internet?
- How much time do you spend doing volunteer work?
- What do you spend the rest of your time doing?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, help me to spread your fragrance everywhere I go today; Flood my soul with your spirit and life; penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus! Amen.



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Lesson 5: Stewards of the Church

Scripture Reading (choose one)

A reading from ...

- **Luke 10: 29-37**

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.³¹* A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.³² Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.³³ But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight.³⁴ He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him.³⁵ The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, “Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.”³⁶ Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?”³⁷ He answered, “The one who treated him with mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

- **Romans 8: 24-28**

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees?²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.²⁷ And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God’s will.²⁸* We know that all things work for good for those who love God,* who are called according to his purpose.²⁹

- **Colossians 3:23-24**

²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.



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• **1 Corinthians 12: 4-6**

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Teaching for the Day

- We are the Church, also known as the Body of Christ
- We have to work together in our own redemption and the redemption of others.
- We must proclaim and teach, serve and sanctify.

Activity

Materials:

USE STEWARDSHIP JOURNAL PAGES 10 AND 1.

Students will journal on the following:

- How can parents nurture their children in the light of faith?
- How can our school/parish community work to make their communities stronger sources of faith and service to the larger community;
- How can all Catholics give generous support—time, money, prayers, and personal service according to their circumstances—to parish and diocesan programs?
- How can the universal Church use its gifts to build God’s Kingdom on Earth.

Each student will create a diagram of his/her self and indicate how he/she can be a model of the Body of Christ.

They will create a separate diagram of a Church and indicate how the community can work together as stewards.

Closing Prayer

Help us Father to be doers of the word and not hearers only. Help us to live a life that is pleasing to you in what we say, what we do, what we wear, what we think, where we go and how we live. Bring us into alignment with your word and your will for our lives. Help us to be better stewards over our time, over our finances, over our resources, over our destinies, over our families, and over all that you have given us. Help us to be mindful that we are part of the Body of Christ, and that we



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represent you here on Earth. Let the spirit of boldness fall on us today! In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Adapted from <http://onthemindofthebishop.blogspot.com/2011/12/my-prayer-for-body-of-christ.html>



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Lesson 6: Obstacles of Stewardship

(Christ Our Light Series, Grade 4, Ch. 6;

<http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-living-out-beatitudes.html>; and

<http://www.serraus.org/resources/programs/beatitudes.pdf>)

Scripture Reading (choose one)

A reading from ...

Romans 16: 17

I appeal to you brothers to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.

2 Corinthians 12: 8-10

Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

John 8: 3-11

Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle.⁴They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery.⁵Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women.* So what do you say?"^b⁶They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger.^{7*} But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them,^c"Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."⁸Again he bent down and wrote on the ground.⁹And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him.¹⁰Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"^d¹¹She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, [and] from now on do not sin any more."^e

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Teaching for the Day

"In today's society the goodness or evil of an act is often decided according to such popular norms as "If it feels good, do it," "It's all right as long as no one gets hurt," or



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“It’s okay if you can get away with it.” Such standards—which may subtly influence even the well-formed consciences of adults—can have a deadly influence on children’s consciences, which are still in the formative stage. Undesirable norms, therefore, must be attacked head-on with very definite standards for making moral judgments according to the teachings of Christ.

This lesson leads the children to an awareness that people who follow Christ must base their decisions on the standards given to us by God: the commandments, the Beatitudes, and all that Jesus teaches us through the Church. The children should begin to realize that they have a responsibility to form their conscience.”

(Christ Our Life)

Activity

Materials:

- USE STEWARDSHIP JOURNAL PAGES 12 AND 13.

Help students understand how they can live out each of the Beatitudes. Some examples follow.

Living out the Beatitudes:

The best approach to this topic will be for us to go through each of the beatitudes, one by one, highlighting how people can live the beatitudes. Ask students, using their own time, talent and treasure, to come up with their own ways to live out the Beatitudes

Some of these acts are simple, and some of these acts are grand:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

- Someone prays every day, but always offers prayers for others and not him or herself.
- A person gives up all of his or her free time in order to volunteer.
- A family works to ensure that God is part of their daily lives.

"Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

- The families and friends of the victims of 9-11 are in despair, but the Lord shall provide for them, whether now or in the future.
- A person loses a very close family member. God provides for that person by allowing them to reunite in the hereafter.
- A family is torn apart and a child vanishes. The parents never find the child in this life, but the family is reunited in the next world.



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"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

- One individual feeds a homeless individual.
- Groups of people anonymously leave clothing for a clothes drive.
- A person humbles him or herself before God in prayer.

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

- The Peace Corps sends out groups to provide for a variety of different causes.
- Volunteers peacefully march against an unjust law.
- A student stands up for an individual who is being bullied, teased, and thereby tormented.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

- Anytime someone truly forgives another, mercy is shown.
- A life is spared at the last minute by a merciful leader.
- A child forgives someone who hurt him or her at school.

"Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God."

- An individual reads the Bible, completely opening his or her heart to the message.
- Children play together at a park with no bias or prejudice of one another.
- A person completes a good act without expecting a reward in return.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."

- Leaders of countries work towards and bring about peace.
- Two old friends decide to let go of a grudge.
- Family members who have not spoken in 35 years reunite with each other.

"Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

- Someone is mocked for standing up for an individual that others do not like.
- Christians continue to hold strong in their beliefs, even though they are persecuted.

Closing Prayer

Bless us, O God, with your love and the love of our neighbor. Give us peace of heart, stillness of mind, and the command of our own affections as we strive to live the Beatitudes everyday. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen



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Lesson 7: A Stewards Way

Scripture Reading (choose one) _____

A reading from ...

- **Romans 8:28**

We know that all things work for good for those who love God,* who are called according to his purpose.

- **Ecclesiastes 3: 1- 15**

1* There is an appointed time for everything,

and a time for every affair under the heavens.

2A time to give birth, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

3A time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to tear down, and a time to build.

4A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

5A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;

a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.

6A time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to cast away.

7A time to rend, and a time to sew;

a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

8A time to love, and a time to hate;

a time of war, and a time of peace.

9^a What profit have workers from their toil? 10I have seen the business that God has given to mortals to be busied about. 11^b God has made everything



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appropriate to its time, but has put the timeless* into their hearts so they cannot find out, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.^{12c} I recognized that there is nothing better than to rejoice and to do well during life.¹³ Moreover, that all can eat and drink and enjoy the good of all their toil—this is a gift of God.¹⁴ I recognized that whatever God does will endure forever; there is no adding to it, or taking from it. Thus has God done that he may be revered.^{15-d} What now is has already been; what is to be, already is: God retrieves what has gone by.

- **Luke 1: 6-38**

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.²⁸ And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.^{31a} Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.^{32a} He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,* and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,³³ and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."³⁴ But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"³⁵ And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.^{36a} And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived* a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;³⁷ for nothing will be impossible for God."³⁸ Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Teaching for the Day

- The life of a Christian steward models the life of Jesus.
- It is challenging and even difficult, in many respects, yet intense joy comes to those who take the risk to live as Christian stewards.
- We look to Mary as an ideal steward. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her ministry in a spirit of fidelity and service; she responded generously to the call.



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- Central to our human and Christian vocations, as well as to the unique vocation each one of us receives from God, is that we be good stewards of the gifts we possess. God gives us this divine-human workshop, this world and Church of ours.
- The Spirit shows us the way.
- Stewardship is a part of that journey.

Activity

Materials:

- USE STEWARDSHIP JOURNAL PAGES 14 AND 15.
- COKESBURY SPIRITUAL GIFTS TEST, INCLUDED IN THIS LESSON PLAN.

Have the students complete a spiritual gifts inventory.

<http://www.cokesburystudents.com/files/cokesburystudents/COKESBURY%20YOUTH%20Spiritual%20Gifts%20Test.pdf>

or

<http://www.spiritualgiftstest.com/test/youth>

In their journals students should write a pledge to use their gifts to serve others.

Prayer

Suscipe Prayer

Take Lord, and receive, all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will – all that I have and call my own. You have given it all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace. That is enough to me.

St. Ignatius Loyola



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Cokesbury Youth Spiritual Gifts Test

Adapted from: ElevenTalents.com and SpiritualGiftsTest.com

Respond to each statement below according to who you are, not who you would like to be or think you ought to be. How true are these statements of you? What has been your experience? To what degree do these statements reflect your usual tendencies? This survey has 80 questions and each is very important, so try not to miss out on any! When you're finished, use the scoring sheet to see what your gifts are!

To save a little time you can write your answers in corresponding boxes on the scoring matrix.

Respond to each statement using this scale:

0 = Not at all; Never

1 = Some of the time; once in a while

2 = Most of the time; usually true

3 = Consistently; definitely true

1. ___ I like to organize people, tasks, and events.
2. ___ I can easily tell the difference between right and wrong, what is truth and lie and good and evil.
3. ___ I have a good understanding of the gospel, and can share it with others easily.
4. ___ I tend to see the potential in people, not their weaknesses.
5. ___ I find it natural and easy to trust God to answer my prayers.
6. ___ I am always ready to give money for an important need.
7. ___ I enjoy working behind the scenes and supporting the work of others.
8. ___ I am a very caring person and always sympathize with other people.
9. ___ I really want others to learn and grow in their faith.



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10. ___ Education and knowledge are very important to me.
11. ___ I decide things based on facts, not my feelings.
12. ___ I can usually tell what a person's character is like based upon first impressions.
13. ___ I always look for opportunities to build relationships with non-Christians.
14. ___ I am able to help others when they are upset about something.
15. ___ I have confidence that God will always provide for me, even in difficult times.

16. ___ When I earn money, I always give some back to God.
17. ___ I enjoy doing routine tasks that support the ministry.
18. ___ I am a patient person, but I respond quickly to help those in need.
19. ___ I am very protective of people who need my help.
20. ___ I have a very strong desire to study the Bible on a regular basis.
21. ___ When I am given a job, I am able to recruit people to help out, and can explain what needs to be done so they understand what to do.
22. ___ I can see through phoniness or deceit before other people can.
23. ___ I feel that I have to tell my friends about Jesus, especially those who don't go to church.
24. ___ I give hope to others by telling them about the promises of God.
25. ___ I believe that God will help me to accomplish great things.
26. ___ I am organized in all areas of my life. I can find things when I need them.
27. ___ I feel like I am a part of my church even when I do routine tasks like cleaning, painting, or yard work.
28. ___ I enjoy helping people who others think of as "undeserving" or beyond help.
29. ___ I like trying to protect others from doing bad things so that they can grow stronger in their faith.
30. ___ I pay close attention to the words, phrases, and meanings of those who teach.



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31. ___ I am a leader at school and church. I can effectively share goals in such a way that others want to carry them out.
32. ___ I tend to see rightness and wrongness in situations.
33. ___ Some people think I'm too pushy when I talk about what I believe, and when I try to convince others to follow Jesus.
34. ___ I can develop a plan to solve every problem that I or my friends might have.
35. ___ I trust God even when my success seems impossible.
36. ___ Some people think I am into "things" because of the importance I place on money.
37. ___ I usually do lots of things that help people.
38. ___ It is important to me to comfort others when they are hurt.
39. ___ Relationships are more important to me than other tasks related to a job.
I am a "people" person.
40. ___ I like to study the Bible one book at a time.
41. ___ I like to set goals and reach them, no matter what others think about my goals and motives.
42. ___ People usually tell me that I am a good judge of character.
43. ___ I believe salvation is the greatest gift of all.
44. ___ I strengthen those who are down in their faith.
45. ___ I am absolutely sure of God's daily presence and action in my life.
46. ___ I like knowing that the money I give makes a real difference in the lives and ministries of God's people.
47. ___ I like to find small things that need to be done and often do them without being asked.
48. ___ I can look beyond a person's handicaps or problems to see a life that matters to God.



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49. ___ I think I would enjoy being given the responsibility for the spiritual growth of a group of believers, like a Sunday school class or a Bible Study.
50. ___ When I teach Scripture, others are interested and want to learn more.
51. ___ I enjoy learning how organizations function.
52. ___ I know when preaching, teaching, or communication is not true to the Bible.
53. ___ I would rather tell others about my faith and about Jesus more than anything else.
54. ___ I like motivating others to take steps for spiritual growth.
55. ___ I am regularly challenging my friends to trust God.
56. ___ When I give something, I want it to be the best that can be given.
57. ___ I don't wish to be the leader or the most popular person in school or at church. I like being one of the crowd.
58. ___ I enjoy bringing hope and joy to people living in difficult situations.
59. ___ I can gently help wandering believers get back to faith and fellowship.
60. ___ When I teach, other people usually "get" what I am trying to say.
61. ___ I dream big dreams, but I don't usually tell others about them.
62. ___ I can see sin when others can't.
63. ___ I want to talk with people who don't know Jesus even if they are total strangers, just so I can influence them for Jesus.
64. ___ When I study the Bible I am interested in what it says to me about my life and how it can help me solve problems.
65. ___ I am willing to try things that others think are not possible, if I am doing it for God.
66. ___ It really bothers me when people are in need of money or things; I want to do something about it.
67. ___ I readily and happily use any of my skills to help wherever needed.
68. ___ I act on feelings rather than facts.



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69. ___ Teaching the same material over and over is boring. I like to learn and teach new things to others.
70. ___ I enjoy explaining things to people so that they can grow spiritually and personally.
71. ___ I work best under pressure.
72. ___ I see most actions as right or wrong, and feel the need to correct the wrong.
73. ___ My conversations with non-believers usually leads to me telling them about my faith.
74. ___ I consider myself to be a very practical, “down to earth” person, so I enjoy practical teaching that I can use in my everyday life.
75. ___ I live with confidence because I know that God is always at work in my life.
76. ___ It is important for me to support missions with my money and time.
77. ___ I am excited and willing to serve others when I am needed to.
78. ___ Other people know that I care about them. I always try to have a loving attitude.
79. ___ I pray a lot for other people.
80. ___ I get upset when others misuse the Bible by making it say what they want it to say, instead of what it really means.



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SCORING Directions:

Enter the score from the questions in the corresponding numbered box. Add up each column and write your score next to the corresponding letter. Your highest scores will be area you are gifted in. Once you have done this you can check the key below to see what gift each letter represents.

Scoring Matrix

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80

A___ B___ C___ D___ E___ F___ G___ H___ I___ J___

- A. Administration
- B. Discernment
- C. Evangelism
- D. Exhortation
- E. Faith
- F. Giving
- G. Helps/Serving/Ministering
- H. Mercy
- I. Pastor
- J. Teaching



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Spiritual Gift Definitions

Administration

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables certain Christians to organize, administrate, and promote the various affairs of the local church's ministry to direct them effectively. A local church cannot grow beyond a certain point without the ministry of these individuals. See I Corinthians 12:28 Romans 12:8, Titus 1:4-5

Discernment

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables certain Christians to know with without a doubt whether a statement or behavior is of God, Satan, or man. See I Corinthians 12:10, Acts 5:3-6, Acts 16:16-18, I John 4:1

Evangelism

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables particular Christians to share the Gospel to unbelievers and burdens Christians about soul-winning. All Christians are called to witness for Christ whether they have this gift or not. See Ephesians 4:11, Acts 8:5-12, Acts 21:8, Acts 8:26- 40, Matthew 28:18-20

Exhortation

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables certain Christians to deliver challenging and encouraging words. See Romans 12:8, Acts 11:23-24, Acts 14:21-22, Acts 15:32

Faith

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit provides Christians with great confidence to believe and expect great things from God. See I Corinthians 12:9, Romans 5:1, Romans 12:3, Hebrews 11



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Giving

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables certain Christians to accumulate and give large amounts of their finances to the glory of God. See Romans 12:8, Acts 4:32-37, Galatians 4:15, Philippians 4:10-18, II Corinthians 8:1-5

Helps/Serving/Ministering

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit empowers certain Christians to render practical help in both physical and spiritual matters. Serving one another, like evangelism, is a calling of all Christians, but there are some who have a special desire to serve, and receive great blessing from it. See Romans 12:7, I Corinthians 12:28, Galatians 6:1-2

Mercy

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables certain Christians to minister to and have compassion for those who are suffering or afflicted. See Romans 12:8, Luke 10:30-37

Pastor/Teaching

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables certain Christians to preach and teach the Word of God and to take responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a body of believers. See Ephesians 4:11, I Peter 5:1-11

Teaching

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables particular Christians to communicate and clarify the details and truths of God's Word for others to learn. See Romans 12:7, Ephesians 4:11