SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP IN ITS BROADER ASPECTS

SENIOR DIVISION, No. 258, FOURTH QUARTER, 1959

THE BLESSING OF DAILY STUDY

"He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God. Every seed brings forth fruit after its kind. . . . Receive into the soul by faith the incorruptible seed of the word, and it will bring forth a character and a life after the similitude of the character and the life of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 38.

"Appreciation of the Bible grows with its study."—*Ibid.,* p. 132.

"God will make the most precious revelations to His hungering, thirsting people. They will find that Christ is a personal Saviour. As they feed upon His word, they find that it is spirit and life. The word destroys the natural, earthly nature, and imparts a new life in Christ Jesus."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 391.

"The neglect of the word means starvation to the soul."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work,* page 44.

My Daily Lesson Study Pledge

As one who greatly desires to improve his knowledge of the Scriptures, I pledge myself to the careful and prayerful study of some portion of my Sabbath school lesson each day of the week.

Name .....

LESSON TITLES FOR THE QUARTER

1. God, the Owner of All
2. God's Reserved Portions
3. The Stewardship of Life
4. Stewards of the Mysteries of God
5. The Stewardship of Time and Talents
6. The Stewardship of Our Abilities
7. Stewardship Recognized in Worship
8. God's Security Plan
9. Sharing in Stewardship
10. The Spiritual Stewardship of the Home
11. Covetousness, a Hindrance to True Stewardship
12. God's Supreme Gift to Man
13. The Rewards of Faithful Stewardship

Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly, No. 258, October-December, 1959. 20 cents a single copy, 75 cents a year (four issues); no additional charge to countries requiring extra postage. Published in the U.S.A. by Pacific Press Publishing Association (a corporation of S.D.A.), 1350 Villa Street, Mountain View, California. Second-class mail privileges authorized at Mountain View, California. When a change of address is desired, please be sure to send both old and new addresses.

Copyright, 1959, by Pacific Press Publishing Association

Printed in U.S.A.

COVER: CHARLES ZINGARO, ARTIST

Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

Theme for Quarter

STEWARDSHIP INCLUDES ALL OF LIFE

Aim for Quarter

To broaden our understanding and practice of Christian stewardship, including our time, our talents, our treasure—our total life; to help us to recognize that these are a trust from God to be used in His service in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

UNIT I

THEME: The Fundamental Principles of Stewardship

AIM: To lead us into a fuller recognition that our lives and all we possess are God's through His creation and redemption.

Lesson No. 1. God, the Owner of All

Lesson No. 2. God's Reserved Portions

Lesson No. 3. The Stewardship of Life

UNIT II

THEME: The Stewardship of the Gospel

AIM: To help us as stewards to gain an understanding of our privilege and responsibility to proclaim the gospel to the world.

Lesson No. 4. Stewards of the Mysteries of God

Lesson No. 5. The Stewardship of Time and Talents

Lesson No. 6. The Stewardship of Our Abilities

Lesson No. 7. Stewardship Recognized in Worship

Lesson No. 8. God's Security Plan

Lesson No. 9. Sharing in Stewardship

Lesson No. 10. The Spiritual Stewardship of the Home

UNIT III

THEME: The Motives and Rewards of Stewardship

AIM: To challenge us as stewards who await our Lord's return to dedicate our time, abilities, material possessions, and total life to God.

Lesson No. 11. Covetousness, a Hindrance to True Stewardship

Lesson No. 12. God's Supreme Gift to Man

Lesson No. 13. The Rewards of Faithful Stewardship

General Introduction

Broadly speaking, stewardship means "responsibility." In this sense it means much more than the payment of tithe. Everything conferred on man by a beneficent Creator becomes an opportunity to reveal a sense of responsibility and gratitude on the part of the recipient.

Since everything has been created according to God's will, and therefore has meaning and purpose, our time, our daily occupations, material possessions, physical health —our total life—are talents to be used and shared in His service. With this enlarged view of the meaning of the term, stewardship thus becomes the *practice* of Christian religion.

"'Stewards.' . . . The Greeks used this word in connection with the management of property, either of a household or of an estate, and applied it to the slaves or freedmen who were entrusted with the care and management of the house and land belonging to their master. The steward not only presided over the affairs of the household, but also made provision for it. This was an office of considerable responsibility. . . .

"In stewardship, the matter of supreme importance is faithfulness. Man has absolute ownership of nothing at all in this world, not even his physical and mental strength. . . . He is a created being, and as such he belongs to his Creator. He is

also a redeemed being, purchased by the blood of Christ; . . . therefore in a double sense man is not his own. . . . Recognition of this relationship between man and his Creator should produce a determination to exercise great care in the use of everything entrusted to him during the period of his sojourn on this earth."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, pp. 680, 681.

Lesson 1, for October 3, 1959

God, the Owner of All

MEMORY VERSE: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

STUDY HELPS: "Counsels on Stewardship," pages 111-113; "The Desire of Ages," pages 19-26; "The Ministry of Healing," pages 415-417; "Testimonies," vol. 9, pp. 253-256; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Scripture references; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of September 17.

LESSON AIM: To help us understand the responsibilities and privileges of sharing in God's gracious gifts.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1, 2; begin reading from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 3-6; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-11.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12-14.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. God, the Creator-Owner

1. Owner of earth and sea by virtue of creation. Ps. 24:1; 95:4, 5.
2. Owner of heaven and earth and Sustainer of all things. Col. 1:16, 17.

II. God, the Sharer With Man

3. His life, image, and dominion. Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7.
4. His glory and honor. Ps. 8:4, 5.
5. Sonship with Jesus. Matt. 6:9.
6. Jesus our example in giving. John 3:16; Titus 2:14, first part.

III. Man, Steward of God's Gifts

7. Entrusted with stewardship of this earth. Gen. 2:15; 1 Cor. 4:1, 7.
8. Given a foundation principle for stewardship. Matt. 22:37-40.
9. Called "friends" of their Lord. John 15:15.
10. Given the same mission as their Master. John 15:16, 20; 20:21.
11. Stewards of God's grace. 1 Peter 4:10.

IV. Man, the Privileged Son and Heir

12. Joint heirs with Christ. Rom. 8:14, 17, 18.
13. The secret of successful partnership. Gal. 2:20; Phil. 4:13.
14. The present responsibility and future hope. 1 John 3:2.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The idea of stewardship should have a practical bearing upon all the people of God. . . . Practical benevolence will give spiritual life to thousands of nominal professors of the truth who now mourn over their darkness. It will transform them from selfish, covetous worshipers of mammon, to earnest, faithful co-workers with Christ in the salvation of sinners."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 112, 113.

God, the Creator-Owner

1. On what fundamental fact is Christian stewardship based? Ps. 24:1; 95:4, 5.

NOTE.—"We should regard ourselves as stewards of the Lord's property, and God as the supreme proprietor, to whom we are to render His own when He shall require it. When He shall come to receive His own with usury, the covetous will see that instead of multiplying the talents entrusted to them, they have brought upon themselves the doom pronounced upon the unprofitable servant."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 326.

2. How did God establish His ownership of this world? How is it maintained? Col. 1:16, 17.

NOTE.—"The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in His work of beneficence. He had an Associate,—a Co-worker who could appreciate His purposes, and could share His joy in giving happiness to created beings. 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.' Christ, the Word, the Only Begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father,—one in nature, in character, in purpose,—the only Being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 34.

God, the Sharer With Man

3. With whom did God share His life, image, and dominion? Gen. 1: 26-28; 2:7.

NOTE.—"Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator—individuality, power to think and to do."—*Education,* page 17.

4. What other attributes did God bestow upon mankind? Ps. 8:4, 5.

NOTE.—"Above all lower orders of being, God designed that man, the crowning work of His creation, should express His thought and reveal His glory. But man is not to exalt himself as God."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 415.

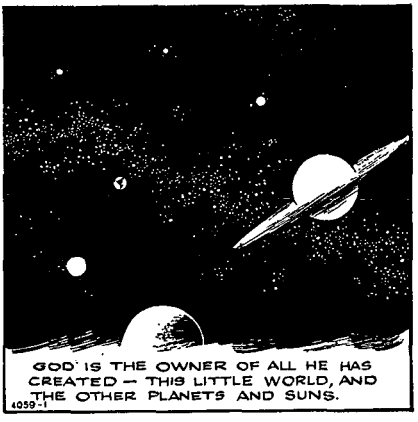
5. How closely did Jesus identify Himself with mankind? Matt. 6:9.

NOTE.—"Jesus teaches us to call *His* Father our Father. He is not ashamed to call us brethren. Hebrews 2:11. So ready, so eager, is the Saviour's heart to welcome us as members of the family of God, that in the very first words we are to use in approaching God He places the assurance of our divine relationship, 'Our Father.' "—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., p. 103.

6. How did Christ become the Supreme Example for stewards? John 3:16; Titus 2:14, first part.

Man, Steward of God's Gifts

7. When and how was the practice of stewardship introduced to man? Gen. 2:15; 1 Cor. 4:1, 7.



NOTE.—"Every Christian is a steward of God, entrusted with His goods. Remember the words: 'Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.' 1 Corinthians 4:2. Let us be sure that we are not robbing God in any jots or tittles, for much is involved in this question.

"All things belong to God. Men may ignore His claims. While He bountifully bestows His blessings upon them, they may use His gifts for their own selfish gratification; but they will be called to give an account for their stewardship."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 246.

8. Upon what principle is Christian stewardship founded? Matt. 22: 37-40.

NOTE.—"By the terms of our stewardship we are placed under obligation, not only to God, but to man. To the infinite love of the Redeemer every human being is indebted for the gifts of life. Food and raiment and shelter, body and mind and soul—all are the purchase of His blood. And by the obligation of gratitude and service thus imposed, Christ has bound us to our fellow men. He bids us, 'By love serve one another.' "—*Education,* page 139.

9. With what honored term does Jesus refer to His stewards? John 15:15.

10. What is their mission and what may they expect? John 15:16, 20; 20:21.

NOTE.—"We are stewards, entrusted by our absent Lord with the care of His household and His interests, which He came to this world to serve. He has returned to heaven, leaving us in charge, and He expects us to watch and wait for His appearing. Let us be faithful to our trust, lest coming suddenly He find us sleeping."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 37.

11. What sacred obligation rests upon every Christian steward? 1 Peter 4:10.

NOTE.—"However large, however small, your talents, remember that what you have is yours only in trust. . . . To Him belong your powers of body, mind, and soul, and for Him these powers are to be used. Your time, your influence, your capabilities, your skill—all must be accounted for to Him who gives all. He uses his gifts best who seeks by earnest endeavor to carry out the Lord's great plan for the uplifting of humanity."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, pp. 281, 282.

Man, the Privileged Son and Heir

12. What special honor and exalted position await self-sacrificing stewards? Rom. 8:14, 17, 18.

13. By what means and through whom is this relationship accomplished? Gal. 2:20; Phil. 4:13.

NOTE.—"Heavenly intelligences are waiting to co-operate with human instrumentalities, that they may reveal to the world what human beings may become, and what, through union with the Divine, may be ac-

complished for the saving of souls that are ready to perish. There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. All who consecrate body, soul, and spirit to His service will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical, mental, and spiritual power. . . . Through the grace given us we may achieve victories that because of our own erroneous and preconceived opinions, our defects of character, our smallness of faith, have seemed impossible."—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 159.

14. What assuring promises are made to those who have attained sonship? 1 John 3:2.

NOTE.—"To everyone who offers himself to the Lord for service, withholding nothing, is given power for the attainment of measureless results. For these God will do great things. He will work upon the minds of men so that, even in this world, there shall be seen in their lives a fulfillment of the promise of the future state."—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 160.

Lesson 2, for October 10, 1959

God's Reserved Portions

MEMORY VERSE: "And hallow My Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God." Ezek. 20:20.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 52-55; "Testimonies," vol. 6, pp. 349-363; "Counsels on Stewardship," pages 65-79, 92-94; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Scripture references; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of September 24.

LESSON AIM: To lead us into a fuller understanding of our responsibility to respect and rightly use the Sabbath and the tithe, which God, the Sovereign Owner, has reserved and sanctified for His specific use.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1, 2; read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 3-7; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8, 9; read from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13; read from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. God's Reserved Tree

1. Symbol of God's complete ownership. Gen. 2:16, 17.
2. Became point of man's disobedience. Gen. 3:1-6, 17-19, 24.

II. The Sanctified Seventh Day

3. God's reserved time. Gen. 2:3; Ex. 20:8-11.
4. A sign of God's sanctifying power. Ex. 31:13; Ezek. 20:20.
5. Made for man. Mark 2:27, 28.
6. To be "remembered." Ex. 20:8; Deut. 5:12-14.
7. Observance of in new earth. Isa. 66:23.

III. The Sacred Tenth

8. Similarity between tithe and Sabbath. Lev. 27:30, 32; Ex. 20:8, 10.
9. Result of misuse of. Ex. 20:15; Mal. 3:8.

IV. Misuse of God's Portion

10. The reserved portion at Jericho. Joshua 6:17-19.
11. A dishonest steward. Joshua 7:5, 10-12.
12. A severe lesson. Joshua 7:16, 18-21, 24-26.

V. The Faithful Steward's Inheritance

13. Reserved in heaven for him. 1 Peter 1:3-5.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"In Eden, God set up the memorial of His work of creation, in placing His blessing upon the seventh day. The Sabbath was committed to Adam, the father and representative of the whole human family. Its observance was to be an act of grateful acknowledgment, on the part of all who should dwell upon the earth, that God was their Creator and their rightful Sovereign; that they were the work of His hands, and the subjects of His authority."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 48.

God's Reserved Tree

1. What object did God reserve to teach His complete ownership of the earth? Gen. 2:16, 17.

NOTE.—"In the garden He caused to grow every tree that was pleasant to the eye or good for food; but among them He made one reserve. Of all else, Adam and Eve might freely eat; but of this one tree God said, 'Thou shalt not eat of it.' Here was the test of their gratitude and loyalty to God."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 65.

"The tree of knowledge had been made a test of their obedience and their love to God. The Lord had seen fit to lay upon them but one prohibition as to the use of all that was in the garden; but if they should disregard His will in this particular, they would incur the guilt of transgression. Satan was not to follow them with continual temptations; he could have access to them only at the forbidden tree."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 53.

2. How did Adam and Eve forfeit their privilege of stewardship of the Garden of Eden? Gen. 3:1-6, 13, 17-19, 24.

The Sanctified Seventh Day

3. For what reason was the seventh day of the week set apart as God's reserved portion of time? Gen. 2:3; Ex. 20:8-11.

NOTE.—"Because He had rested upon the Sabbath, 'God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it,'—set it apart to a holy use. He gave it to Adam as a day of rest. It was a memorial of the work of creation, and thus a sign of God's power and His love. The Scripture says, 'He hath made His wonderful works to be remembered.' 'The things that are made,' declare 'the invisible things of Him since the creation of the world,' 'even His everlasting power and divinity.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 281.

4. Of what is the Sabbath a sign? Ex. 31:13; Ezek. 20:20.

NOTE.—"The Sabbath is the sign of God's creative power, whether manifested in creation or redemption; for redemption is creation—*re*-creation. It requires the same power to *redeem* that it does to *create*. '*Create* in me a clean heart.' Psalm 51:10. 'We are . . . *created* in Christ Jesus unto good works.' Ephesians 2:10. God designs

that each Sabbath shall call Him to mind as the One who created us, and whose grace and sanctifying power are working in us to fit us for His eternal kingdom."—*Bible Readings for the Home,* page 442.

5. For whom was the Sabbath made? Mark 2:27, 28.

NOTE.—"God reserved the seventh day as a period of rest for man, for the good of man as well as for His own glory. He saw that the wants of man required a day of rest from toil and care, that his health and life would be endangered without a period of relaxation from the labor and anxiety of the six days."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 532.

6. How should stewards relate themselves to the Sabbath? Ex. 20:8; Deut. 5:12-14.

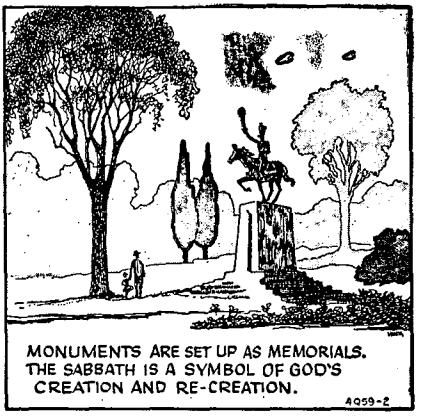
NOTE.—"At the very beginning of the fourth commandment the Lord said, 'Remember.' He knew that amid the multitude of cares and perplexities man would be tempted to excuse himself from meeting the full requirement of the law, or would forget its sacred importance. . . .

"On Friday let the preparation for the Sabbath be completed. . . .

"Before the setting of the sun let the members of the family assemble to read God's word, to sing and pray. There is need of reform here, for many have been remiss."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, pp. 353-356.

7. How will man's stewardship of time continue to be manifest in the new earth? Isa. 66:23.

NOTE.—"So long as the heavens and the earth endure, the Sabbath will continue as a sign of the Creator's power. And when Eden shall bloom on earth again, God's holy rest day will be honored by all beneath the sun. 'From one Sabbath to another' the inhabitants of the glorified new earth shall go up 'to worship before Me, saith the Lord.'"—*The Desire of Ages,* page 283.



The Sacred Tenth

8. What similar expressions did God use in giving us the law of the Sabbath and the law of the tithe? Lev. 27:30, 32; Ex. 20:8, 10.

NOTE.—"The very same language is used concerning the Sabbath as in the law of the tithe: 'The seventh day *is* the Sabbath of of the Lord thy God.' Man has no right nor power to substitute the first day for the seventh. . . . That specified portion of time, set apart by God Himself for religious worship, continues as sacred today as when first hallowed by our Creator.

"In like manner a tithe of our income is 'holy unto the Lord.' The New Testament does not re-enact the law of the tithe, as it does not that of the Sabbath; for the validity of both is assumed, and their deep spiritual import explained. . . . While we as a people are seeking faithfully to give to God the time which He has reserved as His own, shall we not also render to Him that portion of our means which He claims?" —*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 66.

9. Of what are we guilty if we withhold God's reserved portion? Ex. 20:15; Mal. 3:8.

NOTE.—"In using My reserve fund to gratify your own desires you have robbed

souls of the light which I made provision for them to receive. You have had opportunity to show loyalty to Me, but you have not done this. You have robbed Me; you have stolen My reserve fund. 'Ye are cursed with a curse.' "—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 387.

Misuse of God's Portion

10. What was God's command regarding His reserved portion at the capture of Jericho? Joshua 6:17-19.

NOTE.—The Hebrew word rendered "accursed" "can also be translated 'a thing' or 'a person devoted' either to destruction or to sacred use, and therefore excluded from common use (Lev. 27:28, 29). The noun comes from the verb *charam,* which means 'to shut up' or 'to seclude.' Jericho was to be under a ban, with none of its wealth to be devoted to personal use, and all of its living things utterly devoted to destruction. Its metals were to be consecrated to the Lord and brought into His treasury."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 2, p. 198.

11. Why were the children of Israel defeated at the Battle of Ai? Joshua 7:5, 10-12.

12. What lessons does this experience teach relative to God's reserved portion? Joshua 7:16, 18-21, 24-26.

NOTE.—"Achan's sin was committed in defiance of the most direct and solemn warnings and the most mighty manifestations of God's power. . . . God, by the might of His own word, had overthrown this stronghold; the conquest was His, and to Him alone the city with all that it contained was to be devoted.

"Of the millions of Israel there was but one man who, in that solemn hour of triumph and of judgment, had dared to transgress the command of God."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 495, 496.

The Faithful Steward's Inheritance

13. What has God reserved for His faithful stewards? 1 Peter 1:3-5.

NOTE.—"Addressing the church elders regarding their responsibilities as undershepherds of Christ's flock, the apostle wrote: 'Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.' "—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 525, 526.

Lesson 3, for October 17, 1959

The Stewardship of Life

MEMORY VERSE: "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thess. 5:23.

STUDY HELPS: "The Ministry of Healing," pages 241-258, 330-335; "Messages to Young People," pages 232-244; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Scripture references; Lesson Help in the "Review and Herald" of October 1.

LESSON AIM: To remind us that as stewards our entire being—body, soul, and spirit—should be dedicated to God for His glory and man's good.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

Check Here

Sabbath afternoon: General survey. ☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3; read from Study Helps. ☐
Monday: Questions 4-9. ☐
Tuesday: Questions 10, 11; read from Study Helps. ☐
Wednesday: Questions 12, 13; read from Study Helps. ☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps. ☐
Friday: Review entire lesson. ☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Bible Teaching Regarding the Body

1. The body is God's temple. 1 Cor. 6:19.
2. Man belongs to God through creation and redemption. Acts 17:24-28; 1 Cor. 6:20, first part.
3. Man will be destroyed if he defiles the body temple. 1 Cor. 3:16, 17; 6:20, last part.

II. Bible Principles of Health

4. Health and soul prosperity. 3 John 2.
5. A good rule to follow. 1 Cor. 10:31.
6. Obedience to God's law. Prov. 3:1, 2.
7. Right thoughts. Phil. 4:8.
8. Pleasant words and a merry heart Prov. 16:24; 17:22.
9. Temperance, or self-control. 1 Cor. 9:24-27.

III. The Stewardship of Body and Spirit

10. A living sacrifice. Rom. 12:1, 2.
11. A complete transformation. John 17:17.

IV. The Abundant Life

12. Jesus' purpose for man. John 10:10; 15:11.
13. God's desire and promise. 1 Thess. 5:23, 24.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The desire to honor God should be to us the most powerful of all motives. It should lead us to make every exertion to improve the privileges and opportunities provided for us, that we may understand how to use wisely the Lord's goods. It should lead us to keep brain, bone, muscle, and nerve in the most healthful condition, that our physical strength and mental clearness may make us faithful stewards. Selfish interest, if given room to act, dwarfs the mind and hardens the heart; if allowed to control, it destroys moral power. Then disappointment comes."—*Messages to Young People,* pages 149, 150.

Bible Teaching Regarding the Body

1. What is man's body called, and to whom does it not belong? 1 Cor. 6:19.

2. For what two reasons does man belong to God? Acts 17:24-28; 1 Cor. 6:20, first part.

3. As stewards of the body temple of God, what should we always keep in mind? 1 Cor. 3:16, 17; 6:20, last part.

NOTE.—"As the foundation principle of all education in these lines, the youth should be taught that the laws of nature are the laws of God—as truly divine as are the precepts of the Decalogue. . . . Every careless or willful violation of these laws is a sin against our Creator."—*Education,* pages 196, 197.

Bible Principles of Health

4. In what tender words did the apostle John express his highest wish for the believers? 3 John 2.

NOTE.—"Without health no one can as distinctly understand or as completely fulfill his obligations to himself, to his fellow beings, or to his Creator. Therefore the health should be as faithfully guarded as the character."—*Education,* page 195.

5. What principle should govern us in all our activities? 1 Cor. 10:31.

NOTE.—"Here [1 Cor. 10:31] is a principle that is to underlie every motive, thought, and act."—*Gospel Workers,* page 128.

6. What is promised to those who obey God's laws? Prov. 3:1, 2.

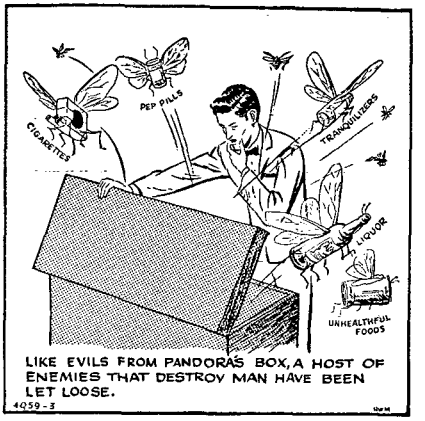
7. On what questions are Christians admonished to think? Phil. 4:8.

NOTE.—"This [Phil. 4:8] will require earnest prayer and unceasing watchfulness. We must be aided by the abiding influence of the Holy Spirit, which will attract the mind upward, and habituate it to dwell on pure and holy things."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 460.

" 'The conversation where Christ and the characteristics of His life are the themes dwelt upon will refresh the spirit and the fruit will be unto holiness and everlasting life.' "—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 574.

8. How does a person's mental attitude affect his health? Prov. 16:24; 17:22.

NOTE.—"Sickness of the mind prevails everywhere. Nine tenths of the diseases from which men suffer have their foundation here. . . . The religion of Christ, so far from being the cause of insanity, is one of its most effectual remedies; for it is a potent soother of the nerves."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 444.



LIKE EVILS FROM PANDORA'S BOX, A HOST OF ENEMIES THAT DESTROY MAN HAVE BEEN LET LOOSE.
4059-3

9. What further principles of physical and mental health does the apostle Paul set forth? For what reasons? 1 Cor. 9:24-27.

The Stewardship of Body and Spirit

10. In recognition of God's mercies, what service may His stewards render? Rom. 12:1, 2.

NOTE.—"True sanctification is a Bible doctrine. The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Thessalonian church, declares: 'This is the will of God, even your sanctification.' And he prays: 'The very God of peace sanctify you wholly.' 1 Thessalonians 4:13; 5:23. The Bible clearly teaches what sanctification is and how it is to be attained. The Saviour prayed for His disciples: 'Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.' John 17:17. And Paul teaches that believers are to be 'sanctified by the Holy Ghost.' Romans 15:16."—*The Great Controversy,* page 469.

11. Through what means is this change accomplished? John 17:17.

The Abundant Life

12. In what words did Jesus express His desire for man? John 10:10; 15:11.

NOTE.—"Those professed Christians who are constantly whining and complaining, and who seem to think happiness and a cheerful countenance a sin, have not the genuine article of religion."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 334.

"When the light of heaven shines upon the human agent, his countenance will express the joy of the Lord within. It is the absence of Christ from the soul that makes people sad and of a doubtful mind. It is the want of Christ that makes the countenance sad, and their life is a pilgrimage of sighs. Rejoicing is the very keynote of the word of God for all who receive Him. Why? Because they have the Light of life. Light brings gladness and joy, and that joy is expressed in the life and the character."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, pp. 1144, 1145.

13. To what extent can God provide the abundant life? 1 Thess. 5: 23, 24.

NOTE.—"As in nature, so in grace; there can be no life without growth. The plant must either grow or die. As its growth is silent and imperceptible, but continuous, so is the development of the Christian life. At every stage of development our life may be perfect; yet if God's purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be continual advancement. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime. As our opportunities multiply, our experience will enlarge, and our knowledge increase. We shall become strong to bear responsibility, and our maturity will be in proportion to our privileges."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 65, 66.

Lesson 4, for October 24, 1959

Stewards of the Mysteries of God

MEMORY VERSE: "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God." 1 Cor. 4:1.

STUDY HELPS: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 25-34, 47-56; "The Ministry of Healing," pages 256, 257; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Scripture references; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of October 8.

LESSON AIM: "To help us as stewards to understand our privilege and responsibility to reveal the mysteries of God to the world.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4; read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 5, 6; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-9.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. The Mysteries of God

1. The mystery of godliness. 1 Tim. 3:16.
2. Originally secret, now manifest. Luke 4:16-19; Rom. 16:25, 26.
3. Revealed by the Holy Spirit. Eph. 3:1-5.
4. Made available to all men through the gospel. Eph. 3:6.

II. The Proclamation of the Gospel

5. The great commission. Matt. 28:19, 20; John 17:18.
6. The purpose of preaching. Eph. 3:8, 9, 17-19.

III. A Divine Obligation

7. Rested upon Paul to preach. 1 Cor. 4:1; 9:16, 17.
8. To watch and pray. Eph. 6:18-20.
9. Reason for, in last days. 1 Cor. 4:9, last part.

IV. The Accomplishment of the Commission

10. Through the power of the Spirit. Acts 1:8; Eph. 4:7, 8.
11. Through the messages of angels. Rev. 14:6, 7.
12. The response of God's "other sheep." John 10:16.
13. Prophetic assurances of success. Matt. 24:14; Rev. 18:1.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"In commissioning His disciples to go 'into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature,' Christ assigned to men the work of extending the knowledge of His grace. But while some go forth to preach, He calls upon others to answer His claims upon them for offerings, with which to support His cause in the earth. He has placed means in the hands of men, that His divine gifts may flow through human channels in doing the work appointed us in saving our fellow men. This is one of God's ways of exalting man. It is just the work that man needs; for it will stir the deepest sympathies of his heart, and call into exercise the highest capabilities of the mind." —*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 15.

The Mysteries of God

1. In Paul's comment on the mystery of godliness, what events of the gospel story does he mention? 1 Tim. 3:16.

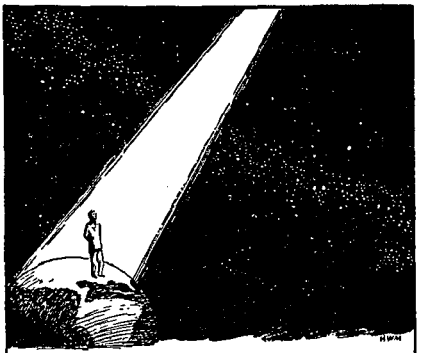
NOTE.—"The incarnation of Christ is a mystery. The union of divinity with humanity is a mystery indeed, hidden with God, 'even the mystery which hath been hid from ages.' It was kept in eternal silence by Jehovah, and was first revealed in Eden, by the prophecy that the Seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, and that he should bruise His heel."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 6, p. 1082.

2. When was this mystery made manifest? Luke 4:16-19; Rom. 16:25, 26.

NOTE.—"To present to the world this mystery that God kept in silence for eternal ages before the world was created, before man was created, was the part that Christ was to act in the work He entered upon when He came to this earth. And this wonderful mystery, the incarnation of Christ and the atonement that He made, must be declared to every son and daughter of Adam."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 6, p. 1082.

3. Through whom was the "mystery of Christ" revealed? Eph. 3:1-5.

4. How may all mankind become



WE ARE A SPECTACLE TO UNFALLEN WORLDS, REVEALING HOW THE BATTLE GOES BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL.

partakers of the promises of God? Eph. 3:6.

The Proclamation of the Gospel

5. As Christian stewards, what responsibility do we have toward the world? Matt. 28:19, 20; John 17:18. Compare Isa. 58:7-11.

NOTE.—"The Saviour's commission to the disciples included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time. . . . All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men. For this work the church was established, and all who take upon themselves its sacred vows are thereby pledged to be co-workers with Christ."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 822.

6. For what reason is the gospel to be proclaimed? Eph. 3:8, 9, 17-19.

NOTE.—In the King James Version the margin gives "stewardship" for "fellowship." "Through the gospel the whole human family, Gentiles and Jews, was to see the purposes of God. Any church or any preaching that does not accomplish this is failing in its mission."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 6. p. 1015.

A Divine Obligation

7. How did Paul regard his stewardship? 1 Cor. 4:1; 9:16, 17.

NOTE.—"For if I do this of mine own will, I have a reward: but if not of mine own will, I have a stewardship intrusted to me." 1 Cor. 9:17, A.R.V.

8. When he was a prisoner in Rome, what was Paul's desire? Eph. 6:18-20.

9. Why should God's earthly children be particularly diligent now? 1 Cor. 4:9, last part.

NOTE.—"The Christian is a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. Singular? —Yes; he has a most singular, peculiar character, because his life is worked out after the divine similitude.

"The inhabitants of unfallen worlds and of the heavenly universe are watching with an intense interest the conflict between good and evil."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 6, p. 1088.

The Accomplishment of the Commission

10. What divine agency will enable the church to fulfill its mission to the world? Acts 1:8; Eph. 4:7, 8.

NOTE.—" 'Unto every one of us is given grace, according to the measure of the gift of Christ,' the Spirit 'dividing to every man severally as He will.' 1 Cor. 12:11. The gifts are already ours in Christ, but their actual possession depends upon our reception of the Spirit of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 327.

11. How is the proclamation of God's final messages symbolized? Rev. 14:6, 7.

NOTE.—"Here is shown the nature of the work of the people of God. They have a message of so great importance that they are represented as flying in the presentation of it to the world. They are holding in their hands the bread of life for a famishing world. . . . What a responsibility is resting upon all to carry the words of gracious invitation: 'And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.' "—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 206, 207.

12. What fact should remind us to witness for God with love and tenderness? John 10:16.

NOTE.—"Many not of our faith are longing for the very help that Christians are in duty bound to give. If God's people would show a genuine interest in their neighbors, many would be reached by the special truths for this time. Nothing will or ever can give character to the work like helping the people just where they are."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 280.

"Notwithstanding the spiritual darkness and alienation from God that exist in the churches which constitute Babylon, *the great body of Christ's true followers are still to be found in their communion.* There are many of these who have never seen the special truths for this time."—*The Great Controversy,* page 390. (Italics supplied.)

"God has jewels in all the churches, and it is not for us to make sweeping denunciation of the professed religious world, but in humility and love, present to all the truth as it is in Jesus. Let men see piety and devotion, let them behold Christlikeness of character, and they will be drawn to the truth."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 4, p. 1184.

13. What assurance has Jesus given to His witnessing stewards that their labors will meet with success? Matt. 24:14; Rev. 18:1.

NOTE.—"The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel's message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. The advent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; the first angel's message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the reformation of the sixteenth century; but these are to be exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel."—*The Great Controversy,* page 611.

Lesson 5, for October 31, 1959

The Stewardship of Time and Talents

MEMORY VERSE: "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matt. 25:21.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 325-332, 342-346; "Counsels on Stewardship," pages 195-197; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Scripture references; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of October 8.

LESSON AIM: To remind us that our time and talents are a trust from God to be used in His service for the benefit of our fellow men.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-5.	☐
Monday: Questions 6, 7; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-11; read from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12-15.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. The Parable of the Talents

1. Distribution of the master's goods. Matt. 25:14, 15.
2. Investment of the talents. Matt. 25:16-18.
3. The day of accounting. Matt. 25: 19, 20, 22, 24, 25.
4. Recognition of faithful stewardship. Matt. 25:21, 23.
5. The unfaithful servant. Matt. 25:26-30.

II. God's Gifts to His Church

6. Talents imparted by the Holy Spirit. Eph. 4:7-11.
7. The purpose of these talents. Eph. 4:12, 13.

III. The Stewardship of Time

8. A brief span of life. Ps. 90:10.
9. Jesus' example in use of time. John 9:4.
10. Working while waiting. Luke 19:13.
11. Faithful stewardship produces fruitage in old age. Ps. 92:13, 14.

IV. Stewards in Time's Last Hour

12. The time to awake. Rom. 13:11.
13. The time to do good. Gal. 6:10.
14. The time to speak out. Esther 4:14.
15. "Redeeming the time." Eph. 5: 15, 16.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 342.

"Christ on the Mount of Olives had spoken to His disciples of His second advent to the world. He had specified certain signs that were to show when His coming was near, and had bidden His disciples watch and be ready. Again He repeated the warning, 'Watch therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.' Then He showed what it means to watch for His coming. The time is to be spent, not in idle waiting, but in diligent working. This lesson He taught in the parable of the talents."—*Ibid.,* p. 325.

The Parable of the Talents

1. Upon what basis did the master in the parable distribute the talents to his servants? Matt. 25:14, 15.

NOTE.—"The man traveling into a far country represents Christ, who, when speaking this parable, was soon to depart from this earth to heaven. The 'bond servants' (R.V.), or slaves, of the parable, represent the followers of Christ. We are not our own. We have been 'bought with a price' (1 Cor. 6:20), not 'with corruptible things, as silver and gold, . . . but with the precious blood of Christ' (1 Peter 1:18, 19); 'that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them.' (2 Cor. 5:15)."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 325, 326.

2. How did the servants invest the talents they were given? Matt. 25: 16-18.

3. On the day of accounting, what report was made by the stewards to their master? Matt. 25:19, 20, 22, 24, 25.

NOTE.—"God has purchased the will, the affections, the mind, the soul, of every human being. Whether believers or unbelievers, all men are the Lord's property. All are called to do service for Him, and for the manner in which they have met this claim, all will be required to render an account at the great judgment day."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 326.

4. How were the faithful stewards rewarded? Matt. 25:21, 23.

NOTE.—"To His servants Christ commits 'His goods'—something to be put to use for Him. He gives 'to every man his work.' Each has his place in the eternal plan of heaven. Each is to work in cooperation with Christ for the salvation of souls. Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 326, 327.

5. What happened to the slothful servant and to his unused talent? Why? Matt. 25:26-30.

NOTE.—The transfer of the unused talent to the steward with ten talents teaches an important lesson. The lord placed his unimproved talent where it would produce maximum returns.

God's Gifts to His Church

6. Name some of the talents bestowed to enlarge the soul-winning ministry of Christ's followers. Eph. 4:7-11.

NOTE.—"The special gifts of the Spirit are not the only talents represented in the parable. It includes all gifts and endowments, whether original or acquired, natural or spiritual. All are to be employed in Christ's service. In becoming His disciples, we surrender ourselves to Him with all that we are and have. These gifts He returns to us purified and ennobled, to be used for His glory in blessing our fellow men."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 328.

7. What is the purpose of these gifts? Eph. 4:12, 13.

The Stewardship of Time

8. How does the psalmist describe the brevity of man's life? Ps. 90:10. Compare Ps. 39:4.

NOTE.—"It is the duty of every Christian to acquire habits of order, thoroughness, and dispatch. There is no excuse for slow bungling at work of any character. When one is always at work and the work is never done, it is because mind and heart are not put into the labor. The one who is slow and who works at a disadvantage, should realize that these are faults to be corrected. He needs to exercise his mind in planning how to use the time so as to secure the best results."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 344.

"If every moment were valued and rightly employed, we should have time for everything that we need to do for ourselves or for the world."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 208.

9. In what words did Jesus emphasize the importance of the proper use of time? John 9:4.

NOTE.—"The life of Christ from His earliest years was a life of earnest activity. He lived not to please Himself."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 345.

10. What admonition is given to stewards who await their Lord's return? Luke 19:13.

NOTE.—"The inquiry of each one should be: What have I of my Lord's, and how shall I use it to His glory? 'Occupy,' says Christ, 'till I come.' . . . If our talents are invested for the salvation of our fellow men, God will be glorified."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 668.

11. What promise is given to older Christians? Ps. 92:13, 14.

NOTE.—With increased leisure time come increased opportunities for service and increased responsibility to render a faithful stewardship of our time. God-centered retirement, instead of self-centered, will result in a great fruitage of souls.

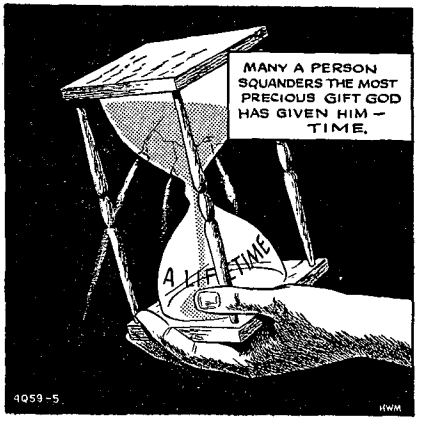
Stewards in Time's Last Hour

12. Why does the apostle Paul urge the believers to work zealously? Rom. 13:11.

13. To whom and for what purpose should we reserve a portion of our time? Gal. 6:10.

NOTE.—"Now is our time to labor for the salvation of our fellow men. There are some who think that if they give money to the cause of Christ, this is all they are required to do; the precious time in which they might do personal service for Him passes unimproved. But it is the privilege and duty of all who have health and strength to render to God active service. All are to labor in winning souls to Christ. Donations of money cannot take the place of this."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 343.

14. What is expected of the true steward in a time of trial or emergency? Esther 4:14.



NOTE.—"A study of women's work in connection with the cause of God in Old Testament times will teach us lessons that will enable us to meet emergencies in the work today. We may not be brought into such a critical and prominent place as were the people of God in the time of Esther; but often converted women can act an important part in more humble positions."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 3, p. 1140.

"The decree that will finally go forth against the remnant people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews. Today the enemies of the true church see in the little company keeping the Sabbath commandment, a Mordecai at the gate. The reverence of God's people for His law, is a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord, and are trampling on His Sabbath."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 605.

15. In view of the nearness of the end, how are we to occupy our time? Eph. 5:15, 16.

NOTE.—"Making the most of the time, because the days are evil." (R.S.V.)

"The only way in which we can redeem our time is by making the most of that which remains, by being co-workers with God in His great plan of redemption."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 342.

The Stewardship of Our Abilities

MEMORY VERSE: "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." 2 Cor. 8:12.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 333-365; "Counsels on Stewardship," pages 111-130; "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 87-90; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Scripture references; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of October 22.

LESSON AIM: *To show that our God-given abilities should be used for His glory and to benefit His children.*

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4; read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 5, 6; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-9; read from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-14.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. The Stewardship of the Mind, Speech, and Influence

1. A sound mind—a gift of God. 2 Tim. 1:6, 7.
2. "Think on these things." Phil. 4:8.
3. Gracious speech. Col. 4:6.
4. Be an example. 1 Tim. 4:12.

II. The Stewardship of Money

5. God, the source of all wealth. Deut. 8:18.
6. Money to be used for God. Matt. 25:27.

III. The Use of Varied Arts and Skills

7. In making the tabernacle. Ex. 31:1-6.
8. In building the temple. 1 Chron. 28:21.
9. In the service of the apostolic church. Acts 6:1-7.

IV. Kindness and Affection in Stewardship

10. Kindness and love. Prov. 15:17; Rom. 12:10.
11. Hospitality. Heb. 13:2.

V. God's Expectations of His Stewards

12. The day of reckoning. Matt. 25:19.
13. The basis of acceptance. 2 Cor. 8:12.
14. Counsel to last-day stewards. 1 Peter 4:7-11.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"All the varied capabilities that men possess—of mind and soul and body—are given them by God, to be so employed as to reach the highest possible degree of excellence. . . . Every faculty, every attribute, with which the Creator has endowed us, is to be employed for His glory and for the uplifting of our fellow men. And in this employment is found its purest, noblest, and happiest exercise."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 595.

The Stewardship of the Mind, Speech, and Influence

1. How should a sound mind be regarded, and what use should be made of it? 2 Tim. 1:6, 7.

NOTE.—"God requires the training of the mental faculties. He designs that His servants shall possess more intelligence and clearer discernment than the worldling, and He is displeased with those who are too careless or too indolent to become efficient, well-informed workers. The Lord bids us love Him with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and with all the mind. This lays upon us the obligation of developing the intellect to its fullest capacity, that with all the mind we may know and love our Creator."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 333.

2. What is Paul's program for positive Christian thinking? Phil. 4:8.

NOTE.—"This will require earnest prayer and unceasing watchfulness. We must be aided by the abiding influence of the Holy Spirit, which will attract the mind upward, and habituate it to dwell on pure and holy things."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 460.

3. What type of speech should characterize God's stewards? Col. 4:6.

NOTE.—"The power of speech is a talent that should be diligently cultivated. Of all the gifts we have received from God, none is capable of being a greater blessing than this."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 335.

"The religion of Jesus softens whatever is hard and rough in the temper, and smooths whatever is rugged and sharp in the manners. It makes the words gentle and the demeanor winning."—*Gospel Workers,* page 122.

4. In what ways did Paul admonish Timothy to be an example? 1 Tim. 4:12.

NOTE.—"The humblest and poorest of the disciples of Jesus can be a blessing to others. They may not realize that they are doing any special good, but by their unconscious influence they may start waves of blessing that will widen and deepen, and the blessed results they may never know until the day of final reward."—*Steps to Christ,* page 83 (1908 ed., p. 88).

"Our profession may be as high as heaven, but it will save neither ourselves nor our fellow men unless we are Christians. A right example will do more to benefit the world than all our profession." —*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 383.

"Let us remember that a Christlike life is the most powerful argument that can be advanced in favor of Christianity, and that a cheap Christian character works more harm in the world than the character of a worldling."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 21.

"The influence of a true, godly life cannot be measured. It reaches beyond the immediate circle of home and friends, shedding a light that wins souls to Jesus."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 143.

The Stewardship of Money

5. What basic principle should be remembered in the accumulation of wealth? Deut. 8:18.

6. What utilization should be made of funds entrusted to us? Matt. 25:27.

NOTE.—"Money has great value, because it can do great good. . . . But money is of no more value than sand, only as it is put to use in providing for the necessities of life, in blessing others, and advancing the cause of Christ."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 351.

The Use of Varied Arts and Skills

7. How were God-given talents used in the building of the tabernacle? Ex. 31:1-6.

NOTE.—"Skill in the common arts is a gift from God. He provides both the gift and the wisdom to use the gift aright."—*Counsels to Teachers,* page 314.

"There are men of the world who have God-given powers of organization, which are needed in the carrying forward of the work for these last days. All are not preachers; but men are needed who can take the management of the institutions where industrial work is carried on, men who in our conferences can act as leaders and educators."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 140.

8. How did the building of the temple illustrate that there is a place for men of various skills in God's work? 1 Chron. 28:21.

9. How did the apostles solve the perplexing problems that confronted them when their numbers increased? Acts 6:1-7.

NOTE.—"These officers gave careful consideration to individual needs as well as to the general financial interests of the church, and by their prudent management and their godly example, they were an important aid to their fellow officers in binding together the various interests of the church into a united whole."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 89.

Almost limitless opportunities for Christian service await the steward who will use his God-entrusted talents in the work of the church. Every Sabbath school member has a responsibility to use systematically and proportionately his abilities in the service of God. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit. . . ." James 1:27. The backsliders, the sick, the lonely and discouraged, need to be visited, as well as our neighbors.

Kindness and Affection in Stewardship

10. What observations and counsel are given regarding kindness and love? Prov. 15:17; Rom. 12:10.

NOTE.—"Kindly affections, generous impulses, and a quick apprehension of spiritual things are precious talents, and lay their possessor under a weighty responsibility. All are to be used in God's service."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 352.

11. What Christian grace should we remember to practice at all times? Heb. 13:2.

NOTE.—"These acts of courtesy [by Abraham and Lot] God thought of sufficient importance to record in His word; and more than a thousand years later they were referred to by an inspired apostle."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 342.

God's Expectations of His Stewards

12. What must all stewards expect? Matt. 25:19.

NOTE.—"When the Lord takes account of His servants, the return from every talent will be scrutinized. The work done reveals the character of the worker."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 360.

"In the great judgment day those who have not worked for Christ, those who have drifted along, carrying no responsibility, thinking of themselves, pleasing themselves, will be placed by the Judge of all the earth with those who did evil. They receive the same condemnation."—*Ibid.*, p. 365.

13. What is the basis of acceptable service to God? 2 Cor. 8:12.

14. What measure of service is expected of all stewards? 1 Peter 4:7-11.

NOTE.—"The apostle's words were written for the instruction of believers in every age, and they have a special significance for those who live at the time when 'the end of all things is at hand.' His exhortations and warnings, and his words of faith and courage, are needed by every soul who would maintain his faith 'steadfast unto the end.'"—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 518.

Lesson 7, for November 14, 1959

Stewardship Recognized in Worship

MEMORY VERSE: "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before Him, all the earth." Ps. 96:9.

STUDY HELPS: "Prophets and Kings," pages 48-50; "Testimonies," vol. 5, pp. 491-500; "Education," pages 242-245; "Gospel Workers," pages 330-336; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Scripture references; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of October 29.

LESSON AIM: To help us appreciate that the fellowship of worship with our Creator is the highest privilege of a steward, and that it should be entered into with spiritual understanding.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5, 6; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7, 8; read from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 9, 10; read from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Questions 11-13; read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Man's Highest Privilege

1. Called to worship. Ps. 96:8, 9; 100:4, 5.
2. To worship the Creator. Ps. 95:2-6.
3. To experience transformation in the presence of God. Isa. 6:1, 5-8.
4. To have Jesus' presence in the midst of worshipers. Matt. 18:20.

II. The Example of Jesus

5. Attended the house of worship. Luke 4:16.

6. Prayer and communion with the Father. Luke 6:12, 13; 9:28, 29; Matt. 26:36.

III. The Worshiper and Public Worship

7. God's house established for all people. Isa. 56:7, last part.
8. In the house of God. Lev. 19:30; Eccl. 5:1.

IV. The Worshiper's Attitude and Response

9. Jesus' love for His church. Eph. 5:25.
10. Respect for leaders. Acts 23:5.
11. Faithful church attendance. Heb. 10:25.
12. A participant. Eph. 5:19; Mal. 3:16.
13. Acceptable response. Matt. 7:21.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"True reverence for God is inspired by a sense of His infinite greatness and a realization of His presence. With this sense of the Unseen, every heart should be deeply impressed. The hour and place of prayer are sacred, because God is there. And as reverence is manifested in attitude and demeanor, the feeling that inspires it will be deepened."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 48, 49.

Man's Highest Privilege

1. How are the people of God exhorted to worship? Ps. 96:8, 9; 100: 4, 5.

NOTE.—"Although God dwells not in temples made with hands, yet He honors with His presence the assemblies of His people. He has promised that when they come together to seek Him, to acknowledge their sins, and to pray for one another, He will meet with them by His Spirit. . . . Those who worship God must worship Him 'in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* page 50.

2. What specific reasons are given for engaging in the act of worship? Ps. 95:2-6.

3. When a man enters the presence of God as a worshiper, what transformation should take place in his life? Isa. 6:1, 5-8.

NOTE.—"Isaiah had seen the King, the Lord of hosts; . . . and the prophet was nerved for the work before him. Throughout his long and arduous mission he carried with him the memory of this vision."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 310.

"The live coal is symbolical of purification, and it also represents the potency of the efforts of God's true servants."—*Gospel Workers,* page 23.

4. What assuring promise did Jesus make to worshipers who assemble in His name? Matt. 18:20. Compare Ps. 77:13.

The Example of Jesus

5. What was Jesus' custom of worship? Luke 4:16.

6. Cite instances showing the importance Jesus attached to private and group prayer. Luke 6:12, 13; 9:28, 29; Matt. 26:36.

NOTE.—"Near the entrance to the garden, Jesus left all but three of the disciples, bidding them pray for themselves and for Him. With Peter, James, and John, He entered its secluded recesses. . . . Often they had passed the night with Him in this retreat. On these occasions, after a season of watching and prayer, they would sleep undisturbed at a little distance from their Master, until He awoke them in the morn-

ing to go forth anew to labor. But now He desired them to spend the night with Him in prayer."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 686.

The Worshiper and Public Worship

7. For whom has God's house been established? Isa. 56:7, last part.

NOTE.—"In the human brotherhood it takes all kinds of talents to make a perfect whole; and the church of Christ is composed of men and women of varied talents, and of all ranks and all classes. God never designed that the pride of men should dissolve that which His own wisdom had ordained,—the combination of all classes of minds, of all the varied talents that make a complete whole."—*Gospel Workers,* page 331.

8. How should reverence be shown by the worshipers in the house of God? Lev. 19:30; Eccl. 5:1.

NOTE.—"When the worshipers enter the place of meeting, they should do so with decorum, passing quietly to their seats. . . . Common talking, whispering, and laughing should not be permitted in the house of worship, either before or after the service. Ardent, active piety should characterize the worshipers." "When the word is spoken, you should remember, brethren, that you are listening to the voice of God through His delegated servant. Listen attentively." "All should be taught to be neat, clean, and orderly in their dress, but not to indulge in that external adorning which is wholly inappropriate for the sanctuary."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 492, 493, 499.

The Worshiper's Attitude and Response

9. What is said of Jesus' love for His church? Eph. 5:25.

NOTE.—"Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theater of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 12.

10. Why should respect be shown for God's representatives? Acts 23:5.

NOTE.—"Reverence should be shown for God's representatives—for ministers, teachers, and parents who are called to speak and act in His stead. In the respect shown to them He is honored."—*Education,* page 244.

11. Why is regular and faithful church attendance especially important in these days? Heb. 10:25.

NOTE.—"To be a member of the body of Christ is a sacred privilege that must not be compared with any other relationship in life. . . . Attendance at Sabbath school, Sabbath worship, and prayer meeting should be considered not only a duty, as it is, but also a privilege. . . . If one is to be a resident in another place where there is a church, the membership should be transferred. If, on the other hand, the stay is to be only temporary, or if for other reasons one does not wish to have his mem-

bership transferred, then it is the duty of the member to keep the church fully informed as to his spiritual experience. . . .

"Another way for the member to keep contact is to send back to his church at regular periods his tithe and general offerings. This at least would be some evidence of his faith in the truth and would keep the officers informed as to his whereabouts."—Frederick Lee, "The Sacredness of Church Membership," *Review and Herald,* April 26, 1956.

12. Mention some of the ways in which a Christian steward may actively participate in worship. Eph. 5: 19; Mal. 3:16.

13. What response on the part of the worshiper gives reality to his stewardship and makes his worship acceptable to God? Matt. 7:21.

NOTE.—"When benevolence, kindness, tenderheartedness, sympathy, are manifest in our lives; when the joy of rightdoing is in our hearts; when we exalt Christ, and not self, we may know that our faith is of the right order. 'Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.' 1 John 2:3."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., pp. 146, 147.

Lesson 8, for November 21, 1959

God's Security Plan

MEMORY VERSE: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33.

STUDY HELPS: "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," 1956 ed., pp. 88-101 (1943 ed., pp. 133-150); "Counsels on Stewardship," pages 13-19, 89-91, 342-344; "Testimonies," vol. 3, pp. 391-397; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Scripture references; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of November 5.

LESSON AIM: To help us to appreciate the privilege of laying up treasure in heaven by contributing our time, abilities, and money for the proclamation of the gospel.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4, 5; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 6-8.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 9, 10; read from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Questions 11, 12; read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. The Insecurity of Earthly Treasure

1. Destructive forces. Matt. 6:19.
2. Danger of forgetting God. Deut. 8:11-14, 17, 19.
3. The uncertainty of material things. 1 Tim. 6:7, 17.

II. The Security of Heavenly Treasure

4. God's bank. Matt. 6:19-21.
5. God's promise of security. Matt. 6:33.

III. Principles of Sound Investment

6. Recognize God's ownership. Ps. 24:1; Hag. 2:8.

7. Honor God first. Prov. 3:9.
8. Follow Jesus' admonition. Luke 6:38.

IV. The Minimum Proportion

9. Example of tithers. Gen. 14:20; 28:20-22.
10. The tithe is the Lord's. Lev. 27:30; Mal. 3:10.

V. Thanksgiving for His Benefits

11. Our response. Ps. 116:12-14; 92:1.
12. How to demonstrate appreciation. 2 Cor. 5:14, 15; Rom. 14:7.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Treasure laid up on earth will not endure; thieves break through and steal; moth and rust corrupt; fire and storm sweep away your possessions. And 'where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.' Treasure laid up on the earth will engross the mind to the exclusion of heavenly things."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., p. 88

The Insecurity of Earthly Treasure

1. In the Sermon on the Mount, what counsel did Jesus give regarding earthly treasure? Matt. 6:19.

2. What dangers come from the accumulation of possessions? Deut. 8:11-14, 17, 19.

NOTE.—"The love of money was the ruling passion in the Jewish age. Worldliness usurped the place of God and religion in the soul. So it is now. Avaricious greed for wealth exerts such a fascinating, bewitching influence over the life that it results in perverting the nobility and corrupting the humanity of men until they are drowned in perdition. The service of Satan is full of care, perplexity, and wearing labor, and the treasure men toil to accumulate on earth is only for a season."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., pp. 88, 89.

3. In view of man's relationship to this world, what specific instruction did God give through the apostle Paul? 1 Tim. 6:7, 17.

NOTE.—"Then let your property go beforehand to heaven. Lay up your treasures beside the throne of God. Make sure your title to the unsearchable riches of Christ." —*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 375.

The Security of Heavenly Treasure

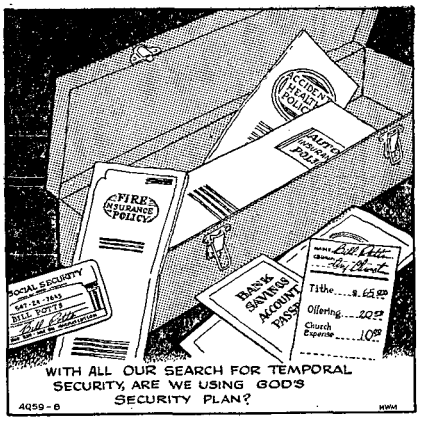
4. What counsel did Jesus give regarding the use of our treasure? For what reason? Matt. 6:19-21.

NOTE.—"It is for your own interest to secure heavenly riches. These alone, of all that you possess, are really yours. The treasure laid up in heaven is imperishable." —*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., p. 89.

5. How may the Christian steward be assured of future security? Matt. 6:33.

NOTE.—"Where the treasure is, there the heart will be. In every effort to benefit others, we benefit ourselves. He who gives money or time for spreading the gospel enlists his own interest and prayers for the work, and for the souls to be reached through it; his affections go out to others, and he is stimulated to greater devotion to God, that he may be enabled to do them the greatest good.

"And at the final day, when the wealth of earth shall perish, he who has laid up treasure in heaven will behold that which his life has gained."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., p. 90.



Principles of Sound Investment

6. What basic principle must a steward recognize in order to make proper investments? Ps. 24:1; Hag. 2:8.

NOTE.—"We should regard ourselves as stewards of the Lord's property, and God as the supreme proprietor, to whom we are to render His own when He shall require it."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 326.

7. Out of what portion of our increase should our return be made to the Lord? Prov. 3:9.

NOTE.—"This scripture teaches that God, as the Giver of all our benefits, has a claim upon them all; that His claim should be our first consideration; and that a special blessing will attend all who honor this claim."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 65.

8. What principle of generosity did Jesus advocate? What benefits will accrue to the giver? Luke 6:38.

NOTE.—"Surely goodness and mercy attend us at every step. Not till we wish the infinite Father to cease bestowing His gifts on us, should we impatiently exclaim, Is there no end of giving? Not only should we faithfully render to God our tithes, which He claims as His own, but we should bring a tribute to His treasury as an offering of gratitude. Let us with joyful hearts bring to our Creator the first fruits of all His bounties,—our choicest possessions, our best and holiest service."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 18.

The Minimum Proportion

9. What evidence do we have of the practice of tithing in the patriarchal age? Gen. 14:20; 28:20-22.

NOTE.—"The tithing system reaches back beyond the days of Moses. Men were required to offer to God gifts for religious purposes before the definite system was given to Moses, even as far back as the days of Adam. . . . This was continued through successive generations, and was carried out by Abraham, who gave tithes to Melchizedek, the priest of the most high God."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 393.

10. To whom does the tithe belong? What is God's command and challenge to His children? Lev. 27: 30; Mal. 3:10.

NOTE.—" 'Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse' (Malachi 3:10), is God's command. No appeal is made to gratitude or to generosity. This is a matter of simple honesty. The tithe is the Lord's; and He bids us return to Him that which is His own.

" 'It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.' 1 Corinthians 4:2. If honesty is an essential principle of business life, must we not recognize our obligation to God—the obligation that underlies every other?"—*Education,* pages 138, 139.

"Let no one, when brought into a strait place, take money consecrated to religious purposes and use it for his advantage, soothing his conscience by saying that he will repay it at some future time. Far better cut down the expenses to correspond with the income, to restrict the wants, and

live within the means than to use the Lord's money for secular purposes."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 247.

Thanksgiving for His Benefits

11. What are some of the accepted ways in which we may express our thankfulness to God? Ps. 116:12-14; 92:1.

NOTE.—"The Lord does not need our offerings. We cannot enrich Him by our gifts. Says the psalmist: 'All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee.' Yet God permits us to show our appreciation of His mercies by self-sacrificing efforts to extend the same to others. This is the only way in which it is possible for us to manifest our gratitude and love to God. He has provided no other."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* pages 18, 19.

12. How may we demonstrate our love and appreciation for Christ's sacrifice on Calvary? 2 Cor. 5:14, 15; Rom. 14:7.

NOTE.—"Christ's believing people are to perpetuate His love. This love is to draw them together around the cross. It is to divest them of all selfishness, and bind them to God and to one another.

"Meet around the cross of Calvary in self-sacrifice and self-denial. God will bless you as you do your best. As you approach the throne of grace, as you find yourself bound to this throne by the golden chain let down from heaven to earth, to draw men from the pit of sin, your heart will go out in love for your brethren and sisters who are without God and without hope in the world."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 16.

Lesson 9, for November 28, 1959

Sharing in Stewardship

MEMORY VERSE: "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich." 2 Cor. 8:9.

STUDY HELPS: "Counsels on Stewardship," pages 20-23, 80, 81, 104-107, 323-325; "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 335-345; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Scripture references; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of November 12.

LESSON AIM: To help us to see that the consecrated steward shares his time, talent, treasure, and life in building the kingdom of God.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afteroon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3; read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-6; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-11.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12, 13; read from Study Helps.	☐
Thursdays: Finish reading from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Sharing in Building God's House

1. David's personal labor and gifts. 1 Chron. 29:2, 3.
2. Willing, consecrated service. 1 Chron. 29:6, 9.
3. The secret of success. 1 Chron. 29:14, 16.

II. Spiritualized Economics

4. Give self first. 2 Cor. 8:1-5.
5. Principles of giving. 1 Cor. 16:1, 2.
6. Generosity and cheerfulness. 2 Cor. 9:6-8.

III. The Church's Educational Responsibility

7. Duty to teach all of God's requirements. Matt. 28:20.
8. Support of the church. Ex. 27:20.
9. A question all must face. Luke 16:5.
10. The significance of "Our Father." Matt. 6:9, 10; Mal. 2:10.
11. The cause of the needy. Job 29:12-16.

IV. The Supreme Example

12. Sharing the riches of His grace. 2 Cor. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:9.
13. The Motive for our sharing. Matt. 22:37-39.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"As faithful stewards we are to use it [money] for the honor and glory of God. Some think that only a portion of their means is the Lord's. When they have set apart a portion for religious and charitable purposes, they regard the remainder as their own, to be used as they see fit. But in this they mistake. All we possess is the Lord's, and we are accountable to Him for the use we make of it."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 351.

Sharing in Building God's House

1. To what extent did David participate personally in building the temple at Jerusalem? 1 Chron. 29:2, 3.

NOTE.—"The response came not only in liberal offerings of treasures to meet the expense of the building, but also in willing *service* in the various lines of God's work. Hearts were filled with a desire to return to the Lord His own, by consecrating to His service all the energies of mind and body."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 3, p. 1129.

2. How did the children of Israel respond to the call for assistance in the building of the house of God? 1 Chron. 29:6, 9.

NOTE.—"Give what you can now, and as you co-operate with Christ, your hand will open to impart still more. And God will refill your hand, that the treasure of truth may be taken to many souls. He will give to you that you may give to others."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 50.

3. What fundamental stewardship principle did the people recognize, and what was the result? 1 Chron. 29:14, 16.

NOTE.—"There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. All who consecrate body, soul, and spirit to His service will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical, mental, and spiritual power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 159.

Spiritualized Economics

4. What fact accounts for the unusual liberality of the Macedonian believers? 2 Cor. 8:1-5.

5. In what systematic way should a Christian practice the stewardship of his means? 1 Cor. 16:1, 2.

NOTE.—"This matter of giving is not left to impulse. God has given us definite instruction in regard to it. He has specified tithes and offerings as the measure of our obligation. And He desires us to give regularly and systematically. . . . Let each regularly examine his income, which is all a blessing from God, and set apart the tithe as a separate fund, to be sacredly the Lord's. This fund should not in any case be devoted to any other use; it is to be devoted solely to support the ministry of the gospel. After the tithe is set apart, let gifts and offerings be apportioned, 'as God hath prospered' you."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* pages 80, 81.

"We are not to consecrate to Him what remains of our income after all our real or imaginary wants are satisfied; but before any portion is consumed, we should set apart that which God has specified as His." —*Ibid.,* p. 81.

6. What fundamental principles should the Christian steward remember and practice? 2 Cor. 9:6-8.

NOTE.—"Says the wise man, 'There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.' And the same lesson is taught in the New Testament by the apostle Paul: [2 Cor. 9:6, 8 quoted here]."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 528.

"It means much to sow beside all waters; it means a continual imparting of gifts and offerings. God will furnish facilities, so that that faithful steward of His intrusted means shall be supplied with a sufficiency in all things, and be enabled to abound to every good work."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 424.

The Church's Educational Responsibility

7. What is the church's responsibility in teaching Christian stewardship? Matt. 28:20.

NOTE.—"It is part of the minister's work to teach those who accept the truth through his efforts, to bring the tithe to the storehouse, as an acknowledgment of their dependence upon God. The new converts should be fully enlightened as to their duty to return to the Lord His own. The command to pay tithe is so plain that there is no semblance of excuse for disregarding it. He who neglects to give instruction on this point, leaves undone a most important part of his work."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 105.

8. Through what offering did God teach the Israelites to support and care for the tabernacle? Ex. 27:20.

NOTE.—"This was to be a continual offering that the house of God might be properly supplied with that which was necessary for His service. His people today are to remember that the house of worship is the Lord's property, and that it is to be scrupulously cared for. But the funds for this work are not to come from the tithe."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 102.

9. What question will be asked us concerning our material possessions? Luke 16:5.

NOTE.—"It is God who blesses men with property, and He does this that they may be able to give toward the advancement of

His cause."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 75.

"Those who hold fast their property till the last moment, surrender it to death rather than to the cause. . . . Dying charity is a poor substitute for living benevolence." —*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 154, 155.

"If you want your means to go to the cause, appropriate it, or all that you do not really need for a support, while you live." —*Ibid.,* p. 155.

"God would have every man, during his lifetime, the executor of his own will in this matter."—*Ibid.,* vol. 4, p. 81.

"A solemn responsibility rests upon ministers to keep before the churches the needs of the cause of God and to educate them to be liberal. When this is neglected, and the churches fail to give for the necessities of others, not only does the work of the Lord suffer, but the blessing that should come to believers is withheld."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 341.

10. What is our responsibility when we pray "Our Father" and "Thy kingdom come"? Matt. 6:9, 10; Mal. 2:10.

NOTE.—"In calling God our Father, we recognize all His children as our brethren. We are all a part of the great web of humanity, all members of one family. . . . As children of God, you will hold His honor, His character, His family, His work, as the objects of your highest interest. It will be your joy to recognize and honor your relation to your Father and to every member of His family. You will rejoice to do any act, however humble, that will tend to His glory or to the well-being of your kindred."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., pp. 105, 106.

"Only those who devote themselves to His service, saying, 'Here am I; send me,' . . . they alone pray in sincerity, 'Thy kingdom come.' "—*Ibid.,* p. 109.

"The sympathies of God's people should be aroused in every church throughout our land, and there should be unselfish action to meet the necessities of different mission fields. Men should testify to their interest in the cause of God by giving of their substance. If such an interest were manifested, the bond of Christian brotherhood would exist and increase in strength between all the members of Christ's family."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* pages 38, 39.

11. What does the experience of Job teach us concerning stewardship? Job 29:12-16.

The Supreme Example

12. Through what sacrificial act of Christ did man become a cosharer? What honored relationship is ours? 2 Cor. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:9.

NOTE.—"To every soul who will suffer with Him in resistance of sin, in labor for His cause, in self-denial for the good of others, He promises a part in the eternal reward of the righteous. Through the exercise of the spirit that characterized His lifework, we are to become partakers of His nature. Partaking in this life of sacrifice for the sake of others, we shall share with Him in the life to come the 'far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.' "—*Counsels on Stewardship,* pages 25, 26.

13. What should be the motive underlying all our sharing? Matt. 22: 37-39.

NOTE.—"Love must be the principle of action. Love is the underlying principle of God's government in heaven and earth, and it must be the foundation of the Christian's character. This alone can make and keep him steadfast. . . . If we love Jesus, we shall love to live for Him, to present our thank offerings to Him, to labor for Him." —*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 49.

Tape-recorded mission appeals for the Thirteenth Sabbath projects are available for offering promotion in the Sabbath school. Order through your Book and Bible House.

The Spiritual Stewardship of the Home

MEMORY VERSE: "And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Tim. 3:15.

STUDY HELPS: "The Adventist Home," pages 292-325; "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 44-51; "The Ministry of Healing," pages 349-362, 388-394; "Messages to Young People," pages 325-342; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Scripture references; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of November 19.

LESSON AIM: To remind us that the sacred privileges and obligations connected with the home involve the highest and noblest forms of stewardship, and that individually we have definite stewardship responsibilities.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1, 2; read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 3-5; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 6-8; read from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 9-13.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. The Home—A Divine Institution

1. Man's first home a pattern. Gen. 2:8, 9, 15.
2. Marriage instituted by God. Gen. 2:18, 21-24.

II. Parental Responsibility

3. Children a heritage of God. Ps. 127:3.
4. Careful training of children enjoined. Prov. 22:6.
5. Any neglect to be met in judgment. Jer. 13:20, last part.

III. Responsibility of Children

6. Example of Jesus. Luke 2:51, 52.
7. Paul's instruction. Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20.
8. Attitude of God-fearing youth. Lam. 3:27.

IV. The Family Altar

9. Example of Abraham. Gen. 12:8.
10. Systematic and regular instruction. Deut. 6:5-7.

V. Results of Home Influences

11. A stalwart, heaven-directed character, conscious of true life values. Heb. 11:23-26.
12. Unfeigned faith and knowledge of Scriptures. 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15.
13. A reformation in parent-child relationship. Mal. 4:5, 6.

Introduction

"What example do you give your children? What order do you have at home? Your children should be educated to be kind, thoughtful of others, gentle, easy to be entreated, and, above everything else, to respect religious things and feel the importance of the claims of God. They should be taught to respect the hour of prayer; they should be required to rise in the morning so as to be present at family worship."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 424.

The Home—A Divine Institution

1. What kind of home, as a model for future generations, did God establish for our first parents? Gen. 2:8, 9, 15.

NOTE.—"The home of our first parents was to be a pattern for other homes as their children should go forth to occupy the earth. That home, beautified by the hand of God Himself, was not a gorgeous palace. Men, in their pride, delight in magnificent and costly edifices, and glory in the works of their own hands; but God placed Adam in a garden."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 49.

2. How and under what conditions did the institution of marriage originate? Gen. 2:18, 21-24.

NOTE.—"God celebrated the first marriage. Thus the institution has for its originator the Creator of the universe. . . . When the divine principles are recognized and obeyed in this relation, marriage is a blessing; it guards the purity and happiness of the race, it provides for man's social needs, it elevates the physical, the intellectual, and the moral nature."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 46.

Parental Responsibility

3. By what statement does God set forth the stewardship responsibility of parents? Ps. 127:3.

NOTE.—"Upon them [the parents] depends in a great measure the well-being of their children in this world, and their happiness in the world to come. To a great extent they determine both the physical and the moral stamp that the little ones receive."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 357.

4. What promise is given to parents who faithfully discharge their obligations? Prov. 22:6.

NOTE.—"This language is positive. The training that Solomon enjoins is to direct, educate, develop. But in order for parents to do this work, they must themselves understand the 'way' the child should go. It is impossible for parents to give their children proper training unless they first give themselves to God, learning of the Great Teacher lessons of obedience to His will."—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students,* page 108.

5. What searching question is asked of all parents, teachers, and spiritual leaders? Jer. 13:20, last part.

NOTE.—" 'Where is the flock?' Zion personified is being addressed, as shown by the gender of the pronoun 'thee,' which, in the Hebrew, is feminine. The flock represents the inhabitants of Judah. These, Zion should have tenderly cared for. But she indulged in iniquity and basely neglected the 'Lord's flock' (v. 22).

"The question is asked against the background of the invasion already in progress, as indicated by the clause, 'behold them that come from the north.' The prophet's searching question receives no answer. Like the man without a wedding garment, Zion remains 'speechless' (Matt. 22:12). In fact, the question requires no answer. The painful truth is all too evident. The day of probation has passed. The flock is passing into enemy hands.

"The same searching question is directed at parents, teachers, and spiritual leaders. God has entrusted precious souls to their care. He will require a strict account of those who are guardians of His flock."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Jer. 13:20.

Compare *The Desire of Ages,* page 641, last paragraph: "To every soul a trust is given. Of everyone the Chief Shepherd will demand, 'Where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?' And 'what wilt thou say when He shall punish thee?' Jer. 13:20, 21."

Responsibility of Children

6. Which aspects of the life of Jesus as a child serve as an example for children today? Luke 2:51, 52.

7. What instruction is given to children? Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20.

8. What observation does Jeremiah make concerning a youth's bearing responsibility? Lam. 3:27.

NOTE.—"The young are naturally inclined to feel that not much responsibility, caretaking, or burden-bearing is expected of them. But upon every one rests the obligation to reach the Bible standard."—*Messages to Young People,* page 368.

The Family Altar

9. How did Abraham demonstrate his spiritual responsibility for his household? Gen. 12:8.

NOTE.—"Abraham, 'the friend of God,' set us a worthy example. . . . Wherever he pitched his tent, close beside it was set up his altar, calling all within his encampment to the morning and the evening sacrifice. When his tent was removed, the altar remained."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 128.

10. What instruction is given concerning regular and systematic spiritual stewardship of the home? Deut. 6:5-7.

NOTE.—"In every Christian home God should be honored by the morning and evening sacrifices of prayer and praise. Children should be taught to respect and reverence the hour of prayer. It is the duty of Christian parents, morning and evening, by earnest prayer and persevering faith, to make a hedge about their children."—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students,* page 110.

"The Sabbath school affords to parents and children an opportunity for the study of God's word. . . . Parents, set apart a little time each day for the study of the Sabbath school lesson with your children. Give up the social visit if need be, rather than sacrifice the hour devoted to the lessons of sacred history. Parents as well as children will receive benefit from this study. Let the more important passages of Scripture connected with the lesson be committed to memory, not as a task, but as a privilege."—*Ibid.,* p. 137.

Results of Home Influences

11. What far-reaching results are observed in the training of Moses? Heb. 11:23-26.

NOTE.—"The lessons that the child learns during the first seven years of life have more to do with forming his character than all that it learns in future years."—*Child Guidance,* page 193.

12. How did the dedicated life of Timothy reflect his early home training? 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15.

13. What promised blessings may parents expect if they fulfill their spiritual obligations in the home? Mal. 4:5, 6.

NOTE.—"If parents give their children the proper education, they themselves will be made happy by seeing the fruit of their careful training in the Christlike character of their children. They are doing God the highest service by presenting to the world well-ordered, well-disciplined families, who not only fear the Lord, but honor and glorify Him by their influence upon other families; and they will receive their reward."

"Work earnestly and untiringly for them. God will hear your prayers and will draw them to Himself. Then, at the last great day, you can bring them to God, saying, 'Here am I, and the children whom Thou hast given me.' "—*The Adventist Home,* pages 533, 536.

Lesson 11, for December 12, 1959

Covetousness, a Hindrance to True Stewardship

MEMORY VERSE: "And He said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Luke 12:15.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 494-498; "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 252-259; "Counsels on Stewardship," pages 209-216; "Testimonies," vol. 3, pp. 545-547; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Scripture references; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of November 26.

LESSON AIM: To help us see how the quest for material possessions may enrich the purse but at the same time impoverish the soul.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1, 2; read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 3-7; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8, 9; read from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-14.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. The Effect and Influence of Covetousness

1. It will bar one from heaven. Eph. 5:5.
2. It draws a curse upon the individual and the church. Joshua 7:1, 12, 20-22; 2 Peter 2:14, 15.

II. Jesus' Warning Through Direct Advice and Parable

3. Our Saviour's entreaty. Luke 12:15.
4. The rich farmer's crop. Luke 12:16.
5. His decision. Luke 12:17-19.
6. God's decision. Luke 12:20.
7. The lesson for us. Luke 12:21.

III. How to Overcome Covetousness

8. Counteracting measures. Matt. 10:8, last part; Prov. 3:27, 28.
9. Christ-directed charity. Matt. 25:40.

IV. Observations and Admonitions

10. Covetousness specifically forbidden in the Decalogue. Ex. 20:17.
11. A life rule for rich and poor alike. Ps. 62:10.
12. The basis of evaluation. Mark 12:41-44.
13. The unselfish life. 2 Cor. 5:17.
14. The cure for covetousness. 2 Cor. 9:6, 7.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"In proportion as the love of Christ fills our hearts and controls our lives, covetousness, selfishness, and love of ease will be overcome, and it will be our pleasure to do the will of Christ, whose servants we claim to be. Our happiness will then be proportionate to our unselfish works, prompted by the love of Christ."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 382.

The Effect and Influence of Covetousness

1. What does God consider covetousness to be, and what will this sin do to us? Eph. 5:5.

NOTE.—"Those who allow a covetous spirit to take possession of them cherish and develop those traits of character which will place their names on the record books of heaven as idolaters. All such are classed with thieves, revilers, and extortioners, none of whom, the word of God declares, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 'The wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the Lord abhorreth.' Covetous attributes are ever opposed to the exercise of Christian beneficence. The fruits of selfishness always reveal themselves in a neglect of duty, and in a failure to use God's entrusted gifts for the advancement of His work. . . . No covetous person can pass through the pearly gates; for all covetousness is idolatry."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 26.

2. To what extremes may the spirit of covetousness lead an individual? What may such a course of action mean to the church? Joshua 7:1, 12, 20-22; 2 Peter 2:14, 15.

NOTE.—"If when Achan yielded to temptation he had been asked if he wished to bring defeat and death into the camp of Israel, he would have answered: 'No, no! is thy servant a dog that he should do this great wickedness?' But he lingered over the temptation to gratify his own covetousness; and when the opportunity was presented, he went further than he had purposed in his heart. It is exactly in this way that individual members of the church are imperceptibly led on to grieve the Spirit of God, to defraud their neighbors, and to bring the frown of God upon the church."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, pp. 492, 493.

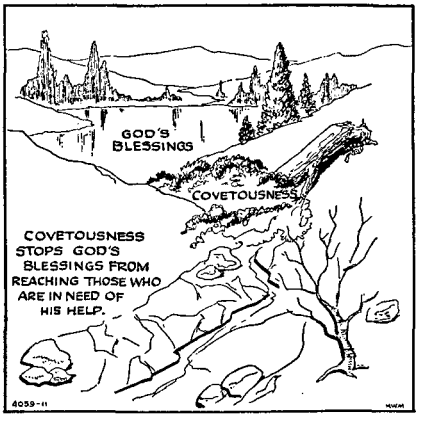
"Balaam was once a good man and a prophet of God; but he had apostatized, and had given himself up to covetousness; yet he still professed to be a servant of the Most High."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 439.

Jesus' Warning Through Direct Advice and Parable

3. What terse warning did Jesus give against covetousness? For what reason? Luke 12:15.

NOTE.—"Covetousness may be defined as undue affection for the material things of life, especially those belonging to someone else."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, p. 796 (on Luke 12:15).

4. In the parable of the rich farmer, what is mentioned regarding his harvest? Luke 12:16.



5. What perplexing situation now confronted the farmer? What decision did he reach? Luke 12:17-19.

NOTE.—"The situation of the poor, the orphan, the widow, the suffering, the afflicted, was brought to this rich man's attention; there were many places in which to bestow his goods."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 256.

Observe the number of "I's" and "my's" in these verses. "My" has been called the devil's pronoun. It hardens the heart against the needs of our brothers and the claims of God, the giver and owner of all. The rich man offered no word of thanksgiving or gratitude to God for His blessings. His covetous spirit resulted in pride of possessions and a failure to recognize his stewardship responsibilities to God and his fellow men.

6. What was God's reaction to the selfish decision of the rich farmer? Luke 12:20.

NOTE.—"This man's aims were no higher than those of the beasts that perish. He lived as if there were no God, no heaven, no future life; as if everything he possessed were his own, and he owed nothing to God or man. The psalmist described this rich man when he wrote, 'The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.' "—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 257, 258.

"God has made a law for His people that a tenth of all the increase shall be His. I have given you, says God, nine tenths; I ask one tenth of all the increase. That one tenth the rich man had withheld from God. If he had not done this, if he had loved God supremely instead of loving and serving himself, he would not have accumulated so great treasures that there would be lack of room to bestow them."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 546.

7. What lesson should present-day stewards learn from this parable? Luke 12:21.

NOTE.—"The picture is true for all time. You may plan for merely selfish good, you may gather together treasure, you may build mansions great and high, as did the builders of ancient Babylon; but you cannot build wall so high or gate so strong as to shut out the messengers of doom. Belshazzar the king 'feasted in his palace,' and 'praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.' But the hand of One invisible wrote upon his walls the words of doom, and the tread of hostile armies was heard at his palace gates. 'In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain,' and an alien monarch sat upon the throne."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 259.

"Covetousness is one of the most common and popular sins of the last days, and has a paralyzing influence upon the soul."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 547.

How to Overcome Covetousness

8. What methods should Christian stewards use to counteract the spirit of covetousness? Matt. 10:8, last part; Prov. 3:27, 28.

NOTE.—"This system is so arranged that men may give something from their wages every day and lay by for their Lord a portion of the profits of every investment."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 548.

"God has opened ways in which covetousness can be overcome—by performing benevolent deeds."—*Ibid.,* p. 545.

"In determining the proportion to be given to the cause of God, be sure to exceed, rather than fall short, of the requirements of duty. Consider for whom the offering is to be made. This recollection will put covetousness to flight."—*Ibid.,* vol. 4, p. 485.

9. How closely does Jesus identify Himself with our gifts of love and service? Matt. 25:40.

Observations and Admonitions

10. What specific command has God given concerning covetousness? Ex. 20:17.

NOTE.—"The tenth commandment is supplementary to the eighth, for covetousness is the root from which theft grows. In fact, the tenth commandment strikes at the roots of the other nine. . . . It establishes the principle that the very thoughts of our hearts come under the jurisdiction of God's law, that we are as responsible for them as for our actions."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 1, p. 607 (on Ex. 20:17).

11. What counsel regarding material possessions is given to the rich? Ps. 62:10.

12. On what basis does Jesus evaluate our gifts to Him? Mark 12:41-44.

NOTE.—"Through self-denial, the poorest will find ways of obtaining something to give back to God."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 200.

"Frequently those who receive the truth are among the poor of this world; but they should not make this an excuse for neglecting those duties which devolve upon them in view of the precious light they have received. They should not allow poverty to prevent them from laying up a treasure in heaven. The blessings within reach of the rich are also within their reach. If they are faithful in using what little they do possess, their treasure in heaven will increase according to their fidelity. It is the motive with which they work, not the amount they do, that makes their offering valuable in the sight of Heaven."—*Ibid.,* p. 107.

13. Through whom alone, and by what supernatural act, can the unselfish life be achieved? 2 Cor. 5:17.

NOTE.—"Through the power of Christ, men and women have broken the chains of sinful habit. They have renounced selfishness. . . . But because this experience is his, the Christian is not therefore to fold his hands, content with that which has been accomplished for him. . . . Each day he must renew his consecration, each day do battle with evil. Old habits, hereditary tendencies to wrong, will strive for the mastery, and against these he is to be ever on guard, striving in Christ's strength for victory."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 476, 477.

14. What attitude on the part of the Christian steward will cure him of any tendency to covetousness? 2 Cor. 9:6, 7.

Lesson 12, for December 19, 1959

God's Supreme Gift to Man

MEMORY VERSE: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 43-49, 59-67; "Counsels on Stewardship," pages 295-297; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on the Scripture references; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of December 3.

LESSON AIM: To remind us of the magnitude of God's love as manifested through the gift of His Son, and to help us demonstrate our love and thankfulness to Him.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 12-14.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐	Thursday: Finish reading from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-7; read from Study Helps.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-11.	☐		

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. The Birth of the Redeemer

1. Announced by heavenly messengers. Luke 2:10-16.
2. Revealed to earthly potentates. Matt. 2:1-10.
3. Causes Gentiles to worship Jesus. Matt. 2:11, first part.
4. Engenders a spirit of grateful giving. Matt. 2:11, last part.

II. Redemption Begins and Ends in a Gift

5. Christ's gift to man while still in sin. Rom. 5:7, 8.
6. Redemption's culminating gift—everlasting life. 1 Cor. 15:51-53.
7. Acceptance of this gift the basis for man's salvation. Acts 4:12; 16:30, 31; John 1:12.

III. The Steward's Response to God's Love

8. Christ the example of love and sacrifice. Eph. 5:1, 2.
9. The steward's thanksgiving. 2 Cor. 9:15.
10. The motivating power for unselfish living. 2 Cor. 5:14, 15.
11. Love's obligation. Rom. 1:14-16.

IV. The Holy Spirit: A Gift and Also a Giver of Gifts

12. Jesus' parting gift. John 14:16, 26; Acts 1:8.
13. The evidence of the Spirit's presence. Gal. 5:22, 23.
14. The latter rain to be sent in answer to prayer. Zech. 10:1.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The story of Bethlehem is an exhaustless theme."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 48.

"While the shepherds were watching their flocks on the hills of Bethlehem, angels from heaven visited them. So today while the humble worker for God is following his employment, angels of God stand by his side, listening to his words, noting the manner in which his work is done, to see if larger responsibilities may be entrusted to his hands."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 477.

The Birth of the Redeemer

1. In what beautiful words did the angels announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds? What did the shepherds immediately do? Luke 2:10-16.

2. Who also visited the newborn King, and of whom did they inquire of His place of birth? What purpose did their visit serve? Matt. 2:1-10.

NOTE.—"The Lord moved upon the Wise Men to go in search of Jesus, and He directed their course by a star. This star, leaving them when near Jerusalem, led them to make inquiries in Judah; for they thought it was not possible for the chief priests and scribes to be ignorant of this great event. The coming of the Wise Men made the whole nation acquainted with the object of their journey, and directed their attention to the important events which were transpiring."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, p. 1077.

3. When these visitors came into the presence of Jesus, what did they do? Matt. 2:11, first part.

4. In what tangible manner did they further honor the infant King? Matt. 2:11, last part.

NOTE.—"The Magi had been among the first to welcome the Redeemer. Their gift was the first that was laid at His feet. And through that gift, what privilege of ministry was theirs! The offering from the heart that loves, God delights to honor, giving it highest efficiency in service for Him. If we have given our hearts to Jesus, we also shall bring our gifts to Him. Our gold and silver, our most precious earthly possessions, our highest mental and spiritual endowments, will be freely devoted to Him who loved us, and gave Himself for us."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 65.

"While urging upon all the duty of first bringing their offerings to God, I would not wholly condemn the practice of making Christmas and New Year's gifts to our friends. It is right to bestow upon one another tokens of love and remembrance if we do not forget our best Friend."—*Review and Herald,* December 26, 1882.

"Christmas day, precious reminder of the sacrifice made in man's behalf, should not be devoted to gluttony and self-indulgence, thus exalting the creature above the Creator. Let us who are partakers of this great salvation show that we have some appreciation of the gift by rendering to God our thank-offerings."—*Review and Herald,* December 11, 1879.

"Let there be recorded in the heavenly books such a Christmas as has never yet been seen because of the donations which shall be given for the sustaining of the work of God and the upbuilding of His kingdom."—*The Adventist Home,* page 483.

Redemption Begins and Ends in a Gift

5. What is proof of the fact that God's amazing love far excels all human virtue? Rom. 5:7, 8.

6. What gift climaxes God's provision for man's salvation? 1 Cor. 15: 51-53.

NOTE.—"Those who see Christ in His true character, and receive Him into the heart, have everlasting life. It is through the Spirit that Christ dwells in us; and the Spirit of God, received into the heart by faith, is the beginning of the life eternal." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 388.

7. Where and in whom only can salvation be found? Acts 4:12; 16:30, 31; John 1:12.

NOTE.—"We must not think that our own merits will save us; Christ is our only hope of salvation."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 431.

The Steward's Response to God's Love

8. In what twofold manner will we respond to God's gift of love? Eph. 5:1, 2.

9. As the apostle Paul contemplated the magnitude of God's gift of grace that prompted the Macedonian liberality, what words of praise did he use to express his profound appreciation? 2 Cor. 9:15.

10. What will be the motivating power in the lives of God's children? For whom will they live? 2 Cor. 5: 14, 15.

NOTE.—"When self is submerged in Christ, true love springs forth spontaneously. It is not an emotion or an impulse, but a decision of a sanctified will. It consists not in feeling, but in the transformation of the whole heart, soul, and character, which is dead to self and alive unto God. Our Lord and Saviour asks us to give ourselves to Him. Surrendering self to God is all He requires, giving ourselves to Him to be employed as He sees fit. Until we come to this point of surrender, we shall not work happily, usefully, or successfully anywhere." —Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 6, pp. 1100, 1101.

11. To what extent did the apostle Paul recognize his indebtedness to God to proclaim His gospel? Rom. 1:14-16.

NOTE.—"He [Paul] realized that upon him rested the obligation of laboring for all classes of men—for Jew and Gentile, learned and unlearned, for those occupying high positions and for those in the most lowly walks of life."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 6, p. 1067.

The Holy Spirit: A Gift and Also a Giver of Gifts

12. For what reasons did Jesus pray for the bestowal of the Holy Spirit upon His followers? John 14:16, 26; Acts 1:8.

NOTE.—"Christ determined that when He ascended from this earth, He would bestow a gift on those who had believed on Him, and those who should believe on Him. What gift could He bestow rich enough to signalize and grace His ascension to the mediatorial throne? It must be worthy of His greatness and His royalty. He determined to give His representative, the Third Person of the Godhead. This gift could not be excelled."—Ellen G. White supplement in *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 6, pp. 1052, 1053.

13. What evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit will be seen in the lives of God's children? Gal. 5:22, 23.

14. What should the stewards of God ask for in the time of the latter rain? What result of such fervent prayer should be expected? Zech. 10:1.

NOTE.—"Near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain; and it is for this added power that Christians are to send their petitions to the Lord of the harvest 'in the time of the latter rain.' In response, 'the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain.' 'He will cause to come down . . . the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain.' "—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 55.

"Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 214.

Lesson 13, for December 26, 1959

The Rewards of Faithful Stewardship

MEMORY VERSE: "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." 1 Cor. 4:2.

STUDY HELPS: "Counsels on Stewardship," pages 82-88, 95-100, 127-130, 348-350; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Scripture references; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of December 10.

LESSON AIM: To help us understand that Christian stewardship brings earthly and heavenly blessings and satisfactions.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4, 5; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 6-8; read from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 9-14.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Temptations Endangering Faithfulness in Stewardship

1. Results of yielding to temptation. Hag. 1:5, 6, 9.
2. The underlying cause of material losses. Mal. 3:8, 9.
3. The basic root of unfaithfulness. Mal. 3:7, first part.

II. God's Appeal to the Unfaithful

4. An invitation to return to Him. Mal. 3:7, last part.
5. The challenge to test Him. Mal. 3:10-12.

III. Promises to the Faithful

6. Special spiritual blessings. Mal. 4:2.
7. A reformation in parent-child relationship. Mal. 4:5, 6.
8. Ample spiritual and material goods to share. 2 Cor. 9:8-10.

IV. The Fundamental Requirement of All Stewards

9. The essence of stewardship. 1 Cor. 4:2.

10. Faithfulness in little things. Luke 16:10; Matt. 25:21.
11. Accountability of every individual. Luke 16:2.
12. The spirit and motivation of the waiting steward. Col. 3:23, 24.

V. The Final Reward

13. God's desire for His church. John 17:3, 19-24.
14. Return of the Master Steward. John 14:1-3; Matt. 25:34.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"One of the most solemn and yet most glorious truths revealed in the Bible is that of Christ's second coming to complete the great work of redemption. . . . The doctrine of the second advent is the very keynote of the Sacred Scriptures. From the day when the first pair turned their sorrowing steps from Eden, the children of faith have waited the coming of the Promised One to break the destroyer's power and bring them again to the lost Paradise."—*The Great Controversy,* page 299.

Temptations Endangering Faithfulness in Stewardship

1. What did God say was the cause of Israel's financial reverses? Hag. 1: 5, 6, 9.

2. At a later period what did God say was one of the underlying causes of their difficulties? Mal. 3:8, 9.

3. How long had a backslidden condition existed? Mal. 3:7, first part.

God's Appeal to the Unfaithful

4. What gracious invitation is given to all who have strayed from the path of faithfulness? Mal. 3:7, last part.

5. What magnanimous promise does God give to encourage His people to honest stewardship? Mal. 3: 10-12.

NOTE.—"The contributions required of the Hebrews for religious and charitable purposes amounted to fully one fourth of their income. So heavy a tax upon the resources of the people might be expected to reduce them to poverty; but, on the contrary, the faithful observance of these regulations was one of the conditions of their prosperity."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 527.

"To defraud God is the greatest crime of which man can be guilty; and yet this sin is deep and widespread."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 86.

"All that is withheld of that which God claims, the tenth of the increase, is recorded in the books of heaven against the withholders, as robbery. Such defraud their Creator; and when this sin of neglect is brought before them, it is not enough for them to change their course and begin to work from that time upon the right principle. . . . Repentance for unfaithful dealing with God, and for base ingratitude, is required."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 394.

Promises to the Faithful

6. What special blessings in addition to the national benefits await the faithful steward? Mal. 4:2.

NOTE.—"In the visions of the prophets of old the Lord of glory was represented as bestowing special light upon His church in the days of darkness and unbelief preceding His second coming. As the Sun of Righteousness, He was to arise upon His church, 'with healing in His wings.' And from every true disciple was to be diffused an influence for life, courage, helpfulness, and true healing."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 716, 717.

7. What spiritual awakening should be expected in our homes? Mal. 4:5, 6.

"IF CHRISTIANS WERE TO ACT IN CONCERT, MOVING FORWARD AS ONE, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ONE POWER,... THEY WOULD MOVE THE WORLD."

8. What further assurance has been given Christian stewards as they labor for their Lord? 2 Cor. 9:8-10.

The Fundamental Requirement of All Stewards

9. What trait of character must every steward possess? 1 Cor. 4:2.

10. On what basis does the Lord judge our ability to carry responsibility? Luke 16:10; Matt. 25:21.

NOTE.—"The importance of the little things is often underrated because they are small; but they supply much of the actual discipline of life. There are really no nonessentials in the Christian's life. Our character building will be full of peril while we underrate the importance of the little things."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 356.

11. What will each steward be required to do in order to receive the reward for faithful service? Luke 16:2.

NOTE.—"The eye of God takes cognizance of every farthing devoted to His cause, and of the willingness or reluctance of the giver. The motive in giving is also chronicled. Those self-sacrificing, consecrated ones who render back to God the things that are His, as He requires of them, will be rewarded according to their works." —*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 196.

"What of your stewardship? Have you during the past year robbed God in tithes and offerings? . . . If you have robbed the Lord, make restitution. As far as possible, make the past right, and then ask the Saviour to pardon you. Will you not return to the Lord His own, before this year, with its burden of record, has passed into eternity?"—*Ibid.,* pp. 97, 98.

12. What spirit will characterize the life of the Christian steward as he awaits his Lord's return? Col. 3:23, 24.

NOTE.—"Whatever the line of work in which we engage, the word of God teaches us to be 'not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.' 'Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might,' 'knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ.' "—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 346.

"If Christians were to act in concert, moving forward as one, under the direction of one Power, for the accomplishment of one purpose, they would move the world." —*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 221.

The Final Reward

13. What is God's desire for His church? John 17:3, 19-24.

NOTE.—"All who consecrate soul, body, and spirit to God will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of His own life. The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in heart and mind. The grace of God enlarges and multiplies their faculties, and every perfection of the divine nature comes to their as-

sistance in the work of saving souls. Through co-operation with Christ they are complete in Him, and in their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 827.

14. What promise will the steward's Master fulfill when He returns? With what words of welcome will He greet His faithful stewards? John 14: 1-3; Matt. 25:34.

NOTE.—"Thus will be fulfilled Christ's promise to His disciples, 'I will come again, and receive you unto Myself.' John 14:3. Those who have loved Him and waited for Him, He will crown with glory and honor and immortality. The righteous dead will come forth from their graves, and those who are alive will be caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air. They will hear the voice of Jesus, sweeter than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, saying to them, Your warfare is accomplished. 'Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.' Matthew 25:34.

"Well might the disciples rejoice in the hope of their Lord's return."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 34.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

December 26, 1959

Forty-seven years ago, in 1912, the first Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow went to India. Again this quarter we have the privilege of doing something special for the Southern Asia Division. Think of the five hundred million people in this great field, where there are only twenty thousand Seventh-day Adventists, and we are sure you will want to give a real Christmas sacrifice offering for Thirteenth Sabbath.

The great majority of our believers in India are very poor in this world's goods, though rich in faith. In the smaller towns and villages it is impossible for them to provide themselves with even modest meeting places, and so the Southern Asia Division Committee has dedicated a part of the overflow for this quarter to building churches throughout their field.

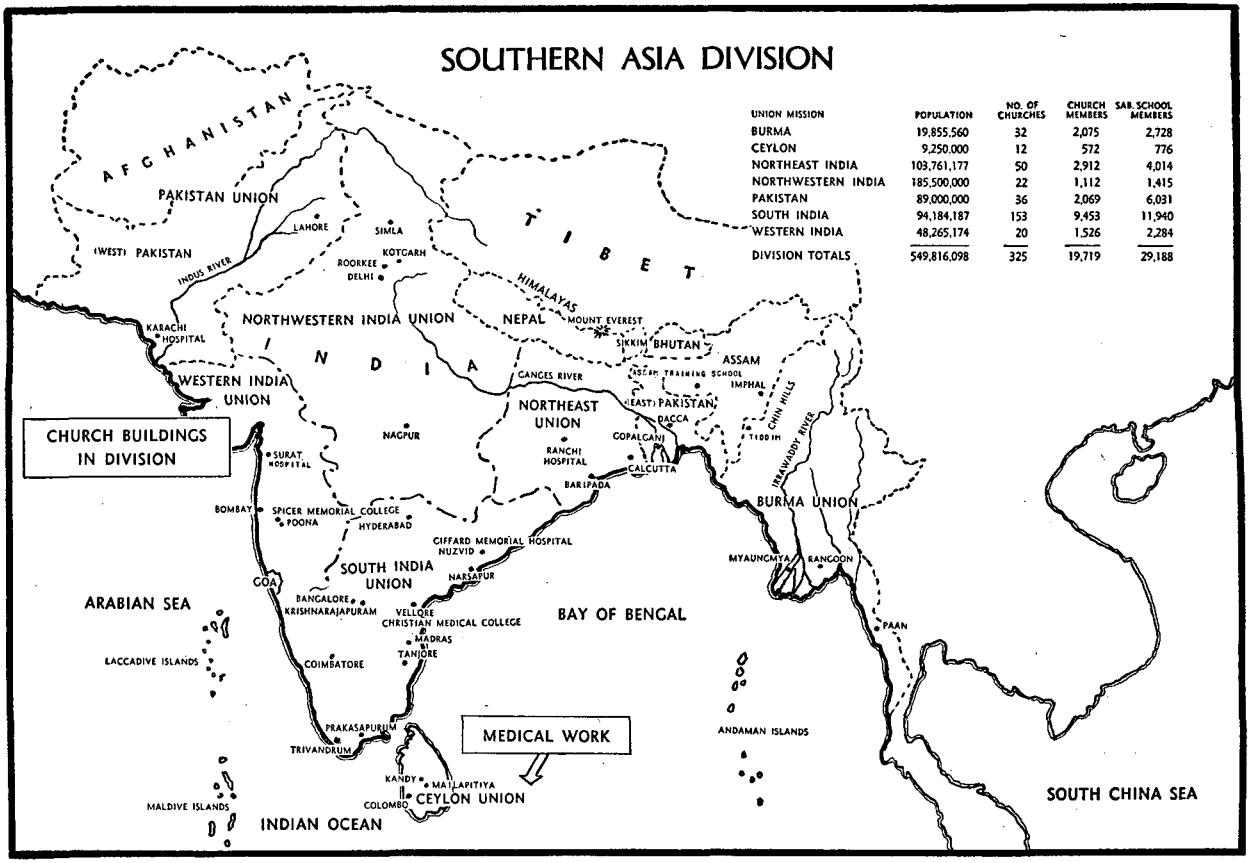
Another crying need in this division is for medical work in Ceylon. A portion of the overflow will go toward helping to start the work of the right arm of the message in this needy area of the Southern Asia Division.

When planning Christmas gifts for your friends, remember your best Friend.

LESSONS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1960

Sabbath school members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the first quarter of 1960 will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. The subject of the quarter's lessons is "The Blessed Hope." The title of the first lesson is "The Plan of Redemption." The Memory Verse is Genesis 3:15. The texts to be studied are:

Ques. 1. 1 Peter 1:20.
Ques. 2. Gen. 3:9, 10.
Ques. 3. Gen. 3:15.
Ques. 4. Micah 4:8; Acts 3:20, 21.
Ques. 5. Rev. 21:5.
Ques. 6. Eph. 3:6.
Ques. 7. Gen 18:25.
Ques. 8. Rev. 15:2, 3; 19:1, 2, first part.
Ques. 9. Rom. 14:11.
Ques. 10. Titus 2:13.
Ques. 11. Isa. 25:9.
Ques. 12. Rev. 21:1-4; 22:3.

SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION

UNION MISSION	POPULATION	NO. OF CHURCHES	CHURCH MEMBERS	SAB. SCHOOL MEMBERS
BURMA	19,855,560	32	2,075	2,728
CEYLON	9,250,000	12	572	776
NORTHEAST INDIA	103,761,177	50	2,912	4,014
NORTHWESTERN INDIA	185,500,000	22	1,112	1,415
PAKISTAN	89,000,000	36	2,069	6,031
SOUTH INDIA	94,184,187	153	9,453	11,940
WESTERN INDIA	48,265,174	20	1,526	2,284
DIVISION TOTALS	549,816,098	325	19,719	29,188