



Course Two: *A Path to Spiritual Maturity*

SEGMENT 4: ACTION

PARTICIPANTS' GUIDE

The third part of our rule of life is action, putting our beliefs to work. We, as Christians, are called to follow Christ's teachings and to do his work as well. Our stewardship of time, talent and treasure is how we make this happen.

OPENING PRAYER

Grant us Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP 234)

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

What are some of the gifts God has given us?

What is stewardship?

VIDEO PRESENTATION



Doing and Being

Attitude of giving

Stewardship

Stewardship of Time

Stewardship of Talent

Stewardship of Treasure

USING THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

As we live out the ministry of the baptized, we find direction through the five Baptismal Covenant promises. These promises are made at every baptism and we ask God's help in keeping these promises. For this class the first and third promises are particularly relevant.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What are the forces at work in your life that make you decide how to spend your time or your money?

2. How does your checkbook reflect your priorities?

3. Choose one of the following scriptures:

Matthew 6:21

Romans 12:1-13

James 1:17-27

Mark 10:17-31

Mark 12:38-44

What do these scriptures say to you about stewardship?

Giving to the glory of God?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION, continued

Holding one another accountable?

Upholding one another?

4. What talents do you have in your work that you could use to build up the Body of Christ?

5. How do you give your time to the glory of God?

6. Make a stewardship collage.

W R A P - U P

It is the covenant love in Jesus that gives us the gift of the spirit of commitment and action. It is always love put into action. It is more than a path – it is an attitude of the heart.

We are now at the end of the second course. As we spend some time reflecting on the four segments of this course, look back over your notes from the segment on prayer. What is your assessment of where you are in your prayer life? Look at your notes from the segment on Bible study. Has this segment changed your method of Bible study? How will this segment impact your stewardship?

To truly mature as a disciple of Christ, we must make the commitment and the effort. We must remember that developing the Christian habits we have learned in this course doesn't mean we have reached maturity, nor can these habits be adopted instantly. We are on a journey, a gradual process for which there is no short cut.

Ministry is for everyone, but not necessarily in the ways you might think.

C L O S I N G P R A Y E R / H Y M N

The following selections can help us reflect on our discussions today. You may either read and pray or sing and pray your selection(s).

The Hymnal 1982

#9 - Not here for high and holy things – esp. vs. 6

#293 - I sing a song of the saints of God

#605 - What does the Lord require for praise and offering

#688 - A mighty fortress

Wonder, Love and Praise

#806 - If you believe and I believe

Lift Every Voice and Sing

#158 - Out in the highways and byways of life

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