

## Cornerstones Curriculum - Lesson Ideas for Stewardship

How do you teach stewardship to children? Cornerstones has selected twenty workshop lessons that will broaden their understanding and sense of responsibility. The biblical context comes from the following Cornerstones units:

- Stewardship of God's Creation
  - Creation
  - Garden of Eden
- Stewardship of Resources
  - Feeding the 5,000
  - Joseph in Egypt
- Stewardship of the Church
  - Witnesses Today
  - Woman with the Alabaster Jar
  - Crucifixion and Resurrection
  - Early Church as the Body of Christ
  - Zacchaeus
  - Paul: Who Can Be a Christian
  - Holy Week: Gospel Comparison
  - The Epistles: On Location
  - The Rich Young Man

Answer some questions in advance:

- In what venue are you going to run these workshops?
  - As a unit in a Workshop Rotation Model over (x) weeks?
  - As a unit in a traditional Sunday School over (x) weeks?
  - As an all-church event on a Sunday afternoon? Perhaps this could tie in with the fall stewardship drive, using interactive and intergenerational activities to raise awareness of the financial support of the church.
  - As a midweek program over (x) weeks?
  - As a unit in a confirmation year over (x) weeks?
- What ages will be involved?
- Do you have a particular focus? For instance, in teaching about stewardship, are you really talking about an awareness of the need to financially support the local church?
- How many workshops will you be looking to run?

Choose the workshops that suit your needs. Place your order [online](http://www.cstones.com). You will instantly get an email with the codes to open the lessons from the Cornerstones CD. Edit the lessons to stress your objectives about stewardship.

All workshop lesson references are cited as (Year: Unit: *Workshop*) in the order in which they appear in our [catalogue](#).

### **Stewardship of God's Creation**

- Witness: Creation
  - *Created by the Spirit* goes with the *Faith Today* workshop  
These workshops explore the concept of stewardship of the earth as expressed in Genesis 1. The children then make stationery to be sold to raise money to support an environmental agency.
  - *Puppetry*  
Create a puppet show of the book *Old Turtle*, a beautiful book about environmental awareness.
  - *Where in the World*  
Learn about the incredible diversity and inter-relatedness of Creation and discover ways to be stewards of the earth.
- Test of Faith: Garden of Eden
  - *Where in the World Is?*  
Focus on the relationship between the Garden of Eden, stewardship of the earth and current agricultural practices. Learn about organic gardening. Create garden tool hangers to use as a congregational fundraiser for organizations that encourage sustainable agriculture.
- For more focus on stewardship of God's Creation, see our [list of eco-friendly lessons](#).

### **Stewardship of Resources**

- Witness: Feeding the 5000
  - *Moved by the Spirit*  
Fun picnic activities will get to the heart of the story – how Jesus (and how we) view hunger in our midst. Relay races, Frisbees and piñatas are just a few of the many possibilities. From this point, you can make the connection to stewardship in terms of what your church does regarding hunger in your community. That mission outreach requires time, talent, energy and financial support.
- Quest for Identity: Joseph in Egypt
  - *Joseph in Egypt*  
Hear Joseph tell his story of stewardship of resources in anticipation of famine and how this impacted his family. Make the connection to stewardship by learning how the membership is the steward of the local church; it must always be aware of the cycle of years of plenty and years of famine.

## Stewardship of the Church

- Witness: Witnesses Today
  - *Faith Today*

It may seem like an odd connection to stewardship, but the lesson overview talks about “making a photograph essay to symbolize how we all function as the body of Christ.” That could be the vehicle for the children getting pictures of members of your congregation doing what they do in church. In the process, they might discover how important each person is to the church, including themselves.
- Covenant: Woman with the Alabaster Jar
  - *Where in the World*

Experiment with scales and create collages to understand the balance that is required between our spiritual life and our social justice life. Find evidence in your own church of how the congregation honors God and fulfills its covenant to serve the poor.

Once again, it may be a stretch, but awareness of the congregation’s mission outreach goes hand-in-hand with supporting the church with time, talent and financial support.
- Covenant: Crucifixion and Resurrection
  - *Created by the Spirit*

Make paper that is embedded with seeds as a reminder of Jesus’ death and resurrection, the Old and New Covenants, and how we are each a seedling that God nurtures into our fullest potential. Make the connection to stewardship by offering them the next step – being active in the church is the way that God nurtures you into your fullest potential. Let the kids hear testimonies from people who are very involved in the church. Let the children see the path that is pointing to church involvement.
- Covenant: Early Church as the Body of Christ

These workshops will give the children a sense that everything that they are learning about the Bible in Sunday School today is actively happening in their own congregation. At the heart of stewardship is a sense of being part of the Body of Christ where there is a platform for acting out one’s faith.

  - *Bedouin Encampment*

While involving the class in setting up a tent, Paul will tell about setting up the church in Corinth. Share an Agape Meal (also known as a Love Feast) that involves personal witness, hymn singing, prayer, scripture and sharing of food.
  - *Created by the Spirit*

Hear I Corinthians 12:21-31 and then create mosaic projects to come to a better understanding of what Paul meant about the Body of Christ.

- *Moved by the Spirit*  
Experience the inter-relatedness and value of each part of the Body of Christ through challenging and cooperative activities. You can use this as a way to learn about the various boards in the church and all of the ways that people get involved in church.
- *Video Live*  
If you have a car enthusiast in your congregation, ask him or her to do a demonstration of how that fabulous car that s/he owns acts just like the Body of Christ.
- *Where in the World Is*  
Study Church architecture as a metaphor for the Body of Christ, focusing on Notre Dame Cathedral and your own church. This is a great way to study the architecture of your local church and all of the symbolism that is placed throughout.
- Quest for Identity: Zacchaeus
  - *Bible Improv*  
Enact the The Empty Pot, a story of a young Chinese boy who must present a birthday present to the emperor. The question for the children is, “What do you bring to God when you enter this church? How would a church value what you have to give?”
  - *Video Live!*  
Create a video similar to *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*, featuring Robbing Leach and Zacchaeus. You’ll catch his transformation on the videotape. This is a great workshop for pondering lifestyle in relation to the church and mission outreach.
- Quest for Identity: Paul: Who Can Be a Christian?
  - *Bible Improv*  
Discover the ancient Christian art of the Catacombs and then create an art-filled catacomb, inviting the congregation to make a pilgrimage there and reflect on those ancient symbols. This is a great workshop for connecting the ancient church with the symbols that are displayed throughout your own church. Or you could use it to point out that just like the catacombs, the church needs maintenance; that requires money, stewardship of the purse.
- Word of God: Holy Week: Gospel Comparison
  - *Where in the World*  
Learn the story of how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. Participate in a foot-washing service and ponder how we express our faith through service to others. Make personal service banners to take home or decorate washcloths to give to a homeless shelter.

- Word of God: The Epistles: On Location
  - *Bedouin Encampment*  
Learn and experience how Paul wrote letters of comfort and support to new churches. From the lesson, you can teach the children about what other churches you sponsor or are sponsoring you or what your denomination is and does for the local church. This is a good time to talk about financial backing of the church.
- Test of Faith: The Rich Young Man
  - *Bible Improv*  
Enact the story in costume of the rich young man's encounter with Jesus. Create skits to portray the choices that the man has to make and how his choices affect other people.
  - *Created by the Spirit*  
Hear the story The Quiltmaker's Gift and create a tissue paper quilt. This workshop is all about wealth, giving, generosity and attending to the needs of others.
  - *Mary & Martha's Bed & Breakfast*  
A storyteller greets the class as the rich young man who must decide what to do about his stuff. Experience two ways that wealth can be a burden. Lead the class in deciding whether to keep the possessions or follow Jesus. Make a connection to the financial stewardship of the church.
- Test of Faith: Pentecost  
Connect the beginning of the Christian Church with history of how your church got started. Tell your church story with the intent that the children start to claim the church's story with their own story, building ownership in the process. That translates to stewardship.
  - *Bedouin Encampment*  
Peter's sermon on Pentecost was the beginning of the church. Explore ways the Holy Spirit has continually been poured out on people of faith since that time.
  - *Mary & Martha's Bed & Breakfast*  
A woman from out of town shares her experience in Jerusalem as the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples. Create a hand print banner that will represent the flames of Pentecost still burning in your congregation today.
  - *Video Live!*  
Create an on-the-spot report as 3,000 people are baptized after Peter's sermon. Create the video by staging an interview with someone at Pentecost asking "Why are you joining the church?". Then videotape the children answering "Why would you become a member of this church?"

We hope that you find this approach to stewardship grounded in the Bible, relevant to your local church and a valuable tool for encouraging our children to invest themselves in their church.