



Church of the Brethren

Stewardship Resources Lending Library



This lending library provides congregational or district leaders with the opportunity to review stewardship resources for use in local or district settings. It also provides professional growth materials for pastors wishing to grow in all areas of Christian stewardship. Curriculum materials are included.

Resources are available in the categories below, though many are holistic in nature: A brief description of content and audience is included to help you determine items you may wish to borrow.

General (whole-life) stewardship
Financial stewardship
Time management
Spiritual gifts, talents and skills
Lifestyle (simplicity)

Wellness (body/mind/spirit)
Care of creation
Hunger
Asset-based thinking/planning

Process/expectations: If you wish to borrow resources, contact Joy Willrett at 1-800-323-8039, ext. 208. Up to six resources are available at a time, for a period of six weeks. Your cost will be return postage to Joy Willrett, Church of the Brethren Offices, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120. A return reminder will be sent to the borrower after five weeks. After eight weeks, the borrower will be charged for the replacement cost of unreturned items.

General (whole-life) stewardship



Afire with God – Spirit-ed Stewardship for a New Century, Betsy Schwarzentraub, Discipleship Resources, 2000. The author addresses stewardship as something radical that asks us to go to the roots of our faith. Four chapters examine: the “old ways” that don’t work, stewardship foundations in scripture, traditions, and practical approaches to becoming “stewards-in-action.” (Adult, leadership study) (1)

First Fruits - 14 Sermons on Stewardship, David Mosser & Brian Bauknight, editors, Abingdon Press, 2003. A collection of sermons. Congregational setting, the sermon itself, and a brief analysis of the sermon’s effectiveness are given. Good examples for those wishing to improve preaching (Pastor/adult study) (2)

Giving Together - A Stewardship Guide for Families, Carol A. Wehrheim, WJK Press, 2004. A concise resource to help families understand the importance of stewardship in household, congregation, community and world. Encourages consideration of the choices we make as disciples. Biblical passages and spiritual practices intrinsic to living as whole stewards are throughout. (Family/intergenerational group) (2)

Growing up Generous: Engaging Youth in Giving and Serving, Eugene C. Roehlkepartian, Elanah Dalyah Naftali, Laura Musegades, Alban Institute, 2000. An up-beat book about youth and their faith, reminding us to nurture generosity as a way of life. Addresses money, giving, serving, and the culture we create and cultivate. (Youth leaders) (2)

La Mayordomia y Usted, FaithGuides, Channing-Bete Company. Cómo usar su tiempo, salud, sus talentos, relaciones; su propiedad y el evangelio en una asociación con Dios. (4)

Let the Children Give - Time, Talents, Love, and Money, Delia Halverson, Discipleship Resources, 2007. Resources for teachers that demonstrate stewardship. Offers many ideas for leaders to engage children of all ages in using their gifts. Teaches through arts and crafts, drama and storytelling, writing and research, games and puzzles, music and reading activities. (Educators, for intergenerational) (3)

The Steward: A Biblical Symbol Come of Age – revised edition, Douglas John Hall, Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2004. An update of Hall’s classic, comprehensive study on the symbol, image, and understanding of “steward:” Biblically, historically, in our time, in relationship to priorities, enlarging our vision, and in the contexts of world justice, nature, world peace, and personal Christian living. (Pastor/adult study) (2)

The Stewardship Companion—Lectionary Resources for Preaching, David Moser, WJK Press, 2007. Commentaries on texts for years A, B, and C. Each can stand alone, for those not using the lectionary. Rotates the Psalms, Gospel, Epistle and Acts, with theological reflections, illustrations and commentary for Advent/Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost seasons. Useful for teaching beyond sermons and speaking to the unchurched in authentic biblical terms. (Pastors/educators,adult) (2)

Revolutionizing Christian Stewardship for the 21st Century: Lessons from Copernicus, Dan R. Dick, Discipleship Resources, 1997. Using historical perspectives from the discoveries of Copernicus and the church's response in history, Dick makes compelling arguments for how we might approach stewardship with more healthy attitudes and more effective teachings. (Adult leadership) (2)

Simply Enough – straight talk from Tony Campolo & Shane Claiborne on Simple, Just Living. DVD. Alternatives for Simple Living, 2007. Two radical Christians discuss following Jesus in Lifestyle, Food, Celebrations, Stuff, Money, and Justice. 38 minutes of bonus footage/stories. Includes study guide. (Jr High - adult) (1)

Stewardship – Sharing our Gifts from God, FaithGuides, Channing-Bete Co., 2007. Eight page booklet addressing a church member's responsibility to serve as God's steward by sharing gifts of time, talent and treasure. Tells how God's gifts can be managed and shared. (Bulletin insert-youth/adult) (3)

Swimming Upstream: Reflections on consumerism and culture, Christine Roush, Design Group International, 2009. Looks at being a Christian steward from a whole-life perspective, including: the myth of "more," marketing, creation care, health issues when we "go with the flow," money as America's new god, use of time, holidays, climate change, training children and the role of the church. (Youth-adult study) (2)

Financial stewardship

Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation, Charles R. Lane, Augsburg Press, 2006. A stewards' guide to transform the church, focusing on discipleship – following Jesus. Creating and nurturing a culture of thanksgiving and telling the stories are important keys to stewardship growth. (Adult/leadership) (3)

At Ease discussing money and values in small groups, John & Sylvia Ronsvale, Alban Institute (empty tomb), 1998. Part 1: an outline of content and guidelines for small group process, and a "how to use this book" section. Part 2: general topics for study—how we think about money, practical issues of stewardship and budgeting, and an exploration of discipleship. Part 3: an overview of effective small group process and leadership. (Adult study) (3)

Celebrating the Offering, Melvin Amerson & James Amerson, Discipleship Resources, Nashville, TN, 2007. A reminder and instruction to honor a generous God who gives abundantly. Includes Old and New Testament practices, ideas for setting tone and mood of the offering, tips to enhance worship through giving. Also discusses the role of clergy and laity, as well as suggesting ways to involve children and youth. Pastors/leadership/Christian Ed) (2)

Financial Peace Revisited, Dave Ramsey, Penguin Books, This is a companion book to the Financial Peace Planner, a step-by-step guide to restoring your family's financial health. Ramsey's straight-forward talk has helped church and unchurched individuals work through financial issues. Easy-to-follow advice begins with "baby steps," setting goals, and seeking the support of others. (Individual/household) (2)

Full Disclosure – Everything the Bible says about Financial Giving, Herb Miller, Discipleship Resources, 2003. Identifies 20 recurring and evolving themes in Old and New Testaments, tells their historical importance, and illustrates contemporary applications for each: (1) Why should we give? (2) How does giving benefit us? (3) How should we give? Practical help in planning for preaching or teaching about financial giving. (Pastor/adult study) (2)

Good \$ense Budget Curriculum – Leader's Guide and Drama Vignettes DVD, Dick Towner and John Tofilon, Willow Creek Community Church, 2002. Partial resources to review - for those considering the Good \$ense budget curriculum for local money ministries. (Leadership) (2)

Good \$ense Small Group Kit, Dick Towner and John Tofilon, Willow Creek Community Church, 2002. The Good \$ense Budget curriculum on DVD, in six sessions taught by Dick Towner. Participants watch the DVD and discuss, while working along in the participant's workbook. (Youth, young adult, adult) (2)

Money Mania – Mastering the Allure of Excess, Mark L. Vincent, LivingStewardship Series, MMA Stewardship Solutions, 2005. Study book addresses cultural attitudes about affluence and materialism, encourages readers to look at intersections in daily life where money plays a central role (family, time, stress, faith, church). Discussion and exercises encourage faith-driven organization our households in ways that honor God. (Adult group or individual study) (2)

Money Matters for Kids, adapted from materials by Larry Burkett, Moody, Light wave, 2002. 12 chapters of scripturally-based lessons on stewardship, values, contentment, diligence, honesty, and what we do with our money. (Elementary) (2)

Money Matters for Teens, and related workbook adapted from materials by Larry Burkett, Moody, Light wave, 2002. Working book with activities. Chapters include money basics how banks work, checking accounts, money management, loans, credit cards and borrowing, giving money wisely, investing, spending wisely, getting and keeping a job, paying for college, “rocking the world” with money. (Ages 15-18) (2)

Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate – A New Vision for Financial Stewardship, J. Clif Christopher, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2008. A former pastor, reflecting on his ministry, shares ten things he would do differently in local church stewardship. (Pastor/leadership study) (2)

Prodigal Sons & Material Girls – How Not to Be your Child’s ATM, Nathan Dungan, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003. A wake-up call for parents and other adults about the tactics of marketers and the pull of consumerism in children’s lives. Offers practical suggestions and advice to reorder financial priorities and help children learn to live with the values of “share - save - spend.” (Adult/parental study) (2)

Speaking of Money – Reducing the Tension, Mark L. Vincent, Herald Press, 2001. Conversations about money in the church are often sabotaged by anxiety, defensiveness or misunderstanding. This book provides leadership tools, focusing on the money life of a congregation from a spiritual and practical point of view. (Adult leadership) (3)

Stewardship in African-American Churches - A new paradigm, Melvin Amerson, Discipleship Resources, 2006. Begins with an overview of history and tradition, moves to helping congregations develop a theology of generosity, define stewardship leadership roles (including Christian Education), celebrate the weekly offering, and establish endowment funds. Good for any congregation. (Adult/leadership) (2)

Taking Godly Care of My Money, Anna Layton Sharp, Carson-Dellosa Publishing Company, Inc., 2005. Stewardship lessons in money matters - includes teacher helps and six scripture-based chapters of multiple lessons and activities that are packed with important understandings, including media literacy. Reproducible activities for purchaser-use in classroom or home. (Grades 2-5+) (2)

Teaching a Christian View of Money, Mark L. Vincent, Herald Press, 1997. This 3-ring binder focuses on teaching congregational initiatives that will transform the stewardship life and understandings within a faith community. Gives in-depth details and activities to the initiatives named in the book, A Christian View of Money. (Adult, pastoral study tool; congregational dynamics) (3)

The ABC’s of Handling Money God’s Way, Howard & Bev Dayton, Moody Publishers, by Crown Ministries, 1998. Storybook form with questions and activities: The children have a wish-project and their mother carefully guides them through Biblical concepts of ownership, being a steward, working, giving, saving, debt, honesty and related subjects. Ages 5-7 (2)

The Price of Faith – Exploring our choices about money and faith, Marie T. Cross, Geneva Press, 2002. Excellent reflections on why faith and money need to be discussed in the church and how these topics affect the ethical and lifestyle choices we make. 10 sessions of Biblical foundations for study, 10 session plans for a stewardship study, including exercises. (Adult) (2)

The Total Money Makeover – Proven Plan for Financial Fitness & workbook of same title, Dave Ramsey, Thomas Nelson, 2003/2007. A straight-forward plan for completely making over one’s money habits, based on results: helps design plans for paying off debts, names ten most dangerous money myths, helps with planning for the future. Final chapter addresses money and spiritual values. (Adult) (2)

Care of creation



Creation Care – Keepers of the Earth, Luke Gascho, LivingStewardship Series, MMA Stewardship Solutions, 2008.

Twelve chapters for study, discussion and prayer. Topics include: Stewardship and wonder; creation care theology, ethics, and economics; ecological footprints; food and water supplies; climate change and global dynamics; the role of the Church. (Adult group or individual study) (1)

Earth Trek – celebrating and sustaining God’s creation, Joanne Moyer, Herald Press, 2004. Eight chapters creatively based on “in the beginning” and the 7 days of creation. Each chapter has 4-6 weekly themes that provide information, reflection, earth and faith connections, meditation and action options. (Intergenerational) (3)

Imaging God – Dominion as Stewardship, Douglas John Hall, Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1986. Hall argues that humankind’s historical practice of “dominion” has been destructive. Confession is not enough; we must rethink the relationship of humanity and nature as people created in the image of God (*imago Dei*) who must act to reflect, or “image” the Creator. Dominion, then, is service with and for whom we are responsible. (Pastor/adult study) (2)

Taking Godly Care of the Earth, Anna Layton Sharp, Carson-Dellosa Publishing Company, Inc., 2005. Stewardship lessons in creation care include teacher helps and six scripture-based chapters of multiple lessons. Activities packed with important understandings, including effective and practical ways to “tend the garden.” Reproducible activities for purchaser-use in classroom or home. (Grades 2-5) (2)

Time



Time-Warped – First Century Time Stewardship for 21st Century Living, Steve Ganger, LivingStewardship Series, MMA Stewardship Solutions, 2004. A scripturally-based study and action guide to help individuals or groups consider attitudes about time, use of time and choices about prioritizing. Worksheets. (Teen– Adult) (2)

Wellness: spirit/body/mind



Body Talk: Speaking the Words of Health, Ingrid Friesen Moser, LivingStewardship Series, MMA Stewardship Solutions, 2007. Integrates Bible study with stories and reflection opportunities about living as faithful stewards of God’s extravagant gift of health. Tackles health at two levels: personal experiences, and the meaning of being a part of a “faith body.” (Adult/group or individual study) (2)

“How to Be Spiritually Fit!” Script and CD soundtrack, ChristianSitScripts.com and SheepLaughs records, 2001.

Lafiya, Association of Brethren Caregivers, 1993.

Mind Body Magic, Creative Activities for any Audience, [Whole Person Associates](#), 1997.

“Super Size Me, An Educational Tool of Epic Portions,” Grades 6-12, DVD Hart Sharp Video 2004.

Taking Godly Care of My Body, Anna Layton Sharp, Carson-Dellosa Publishing Company, Inc., 2005. Stewardship lessons in physical health, includes teacher helps and six scripture-based chapters of multiple lessons and activities that are packed with important understandings, including media awareness. Reproducible activities for purchaser’s use in classroom or home. (Grades 2-5 +) (3)

“Teen Yoga A Complete Yoga program for Teen Health, Strength & Beauty,” DVD Autumn Moon, Inc. 2008.

Wellness Activities for Youth, Vol 2, Sandy Queen, Whole Person Associates, 1994.

Hunger issues



Making Poverty History – Hunger Education Activities that Work, Dramas, Simulations and Worship Resources on the Millennium Development Goals, Church World Service, printed copy of booklet, downloadable at www.churchworldservice.org/pdf_files/EA/MakingPovertyHistory.pdf (2)

Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: Moving from Affluence to Generosity, Ronald J. Sider, W Publishing Group (Division of Thomas Nelson), 1997. Addresses the world situation and the Biblical imperative to seek justice for the world's poor. Sections are: Poor Lazarus and Rich Christians, A Biblical Perspective on the Poor and Possessions, What Causes Poverty? and Implementation. Multiple chapters per section include study questions. (Adult study) (2)

Gifts (spiritual and talents)



Talent Show – Your faith in full color, Bob Lichty, MMA Stewardship Solutions, 2005. A study guide to help participants move to the use of talents “all for One- All for God – All the Time.” Chapters/sessions focus on gifts, talents, passions, style, experience, and then move participants into taking action. (Adult study for group or individual) (2)

Asset-Based thinking/planning



The Great Permission – An Asset-Based Field Guide for Congregations, Bob Sitze, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, 2002. A resource to help pastors and congregational leaders look through the lens of God's grace and understand asset-based approaches to church life. Included are background reflections, case studies, anecdotes, and how-to's. (Congregational leadership) (4)

The Power of Asset-Mapping – How Your Congregation Can Act on its Gifts, Luther K. Snow, Alban Institute, 2004. This book gives step-by-step process and guidance in helping a congregation work from a base of its strengths, rather than its needs. (Congregational leadership) (3)

Simplicity – lifestyle



Basic Trek – Venture into a World of Enough (the original 28-day journey), Dave Scrock-Shenk, editor, Herald Press, 2002. Four themes in four weeks of daily reflection focus on living in a world of enough for all. Includes questions and activities to try. Themes are: Awaken to the journey of enough joy, step out to explore simplicity, lighten the pack, and stay the course. (Intergenerational/household) (3)

Climbing the Sycamore Tree – a Study on Choice and Simplicity, Ann Hagmann, The Upper Room, 2001. Six-week study seeks to deepen the link between the faith we profess and the lifestyle we live, using the story of Zacchaeus. Includes scripture, discussion questions, guides for reflection or activity, and prayer. Asks questions about daily choices, provides accessible insight into how our economy functions, and discusses how spending our money relates to spiritual formation. (Group/individual study) (2)

Simply enough – straight talk from Tony Campolo & Chane Claiborne on simple, just living. Alternatives for Simple Living, 2007. A DVD with intensely personal dialog about the foundations of Christian life and voluntary simplicity. Topics: lifestyle, food, celebrations, stuff, money and justice, plus bonus footage with stories. Includes study/action guide. (Youth-adult) (4)