

“Living Your Discipleship” Small Group Facilitator Aide

Week 4: Steward and Conclusion – Week of October 30th

Pre-work:

- **Read** Chapters 8 and 9 (Steward & Conclusion) in “Living Your Discipleship”
- **Watch** Ken’s videos (all videos available at www.lives-explored.com)
 - **Steward:** Ken asks questions about stewardship related to his calling as a woodworker, seeking to offer his gifts in service to others. Ken discovered his calling late one night whittling at his table. Watch how his dream of woodcarving led to inspiration from the strangest places
 - Ken’s video (watch time 7:42) - <https://youtu.be/LJLs2BsQOVE>

TOPIC	TIME
OPEN & CHECK-IN	5 MINUTES
<p>Open with something like, <i>“As we gather together, I am going to...(light a candle, ring chime or bowl, etc.) as a way to mark the beginning of our time together and to call our presence to this moment, to this room and with each other.”</i></p> <p>Check in. <i>“I invite us to each take one minute to tell the group (share one word/one sentence) about “How do you come tonight?”</i></p>	
PRAYER	10 MINUTES
<p>Begin with a prayer of lectio divina using one of the scripture passages from the beginning of the week’s chapters</p> <p>Steward scripture reading (pg. 81-82) – Matthew 25: 14-29 Conclusion scripture reading (pg. 91) – John 14: 1-6</p> <p><u>Lectio Divina Instructions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Find a quiet place for your reflection. <i>Begin in prayer: Lord, open my heart to reflect on your call in my life and for your world. Amen.</i> Read the Scripture passage aloud. Spend a few moments in silence reflecting on the passage. <i>What word or phrase strikes you? Hold that word or phrase in your mind as you spend a few moments in quiet reflection.</i> Read the Scripture passage aloud a second time, holding in mind the word or phrase that struck you when you first read it. <i>What might God be saying to you through this word or phrase? Spend a few moments in quiet reflection.</i> Read the Scripture passage aloud a third and final time. <i>How might God be calling you to act through the word or phrase that first struck you? How might you respond to this call?</i> Sit with the Scripture passage for another minute in quiet reflection and thanksgiving. <p>Close with a final prayer: <i>Lord, open my heart to reflect on your call in my life and for your world. Amen</i></p>	

REFLECTING	50 MINUTES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start with a brief summary of the chapter's main points to review what participants read in preparation Show a brief clip of each of the videos for the week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steward video – <i>Recommended segment: 4:00-7:08</i> Discuss reflection questions. You may not have enough time to cover all questions but these should offer enough prompts to get participants thinking and sharing about how they live this aspect of discipleship. <p>Steward Reflection Questions (pg. 89-90):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Who is someone in your life who embodies the attitude of stewardship? What has their example taught you? Consider the following from Matthew's gospel: "Come share your master's joy." Where do you experience joy in your life today? How might God be meeting you in these relationships, experiences, or activities – to share in your joy? The hymn "The Servant Song" asks, "Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?" Whom do you serve by your talents, skills, opportunities you have been given? At Mass, we share monetary gifts in the basket. Imagine you could place other gifts in the basket – your energy for an interest or hobby, your dedication to your work, your commitment to a charity, or your love for a close friend. What gift could you give back to God that has grown because of your faithful stewardship? Stewardship involves seeking what is good in God's eyes. If you consider the needs and issues of your local community, what might God be seeking to bring about among you? How might your talents, skills, or experiences be called forth for the common good as part of your own vocation? Call to action (optional) – Read Pope Francis' encyclical On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si – available at https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html) How do his reflections on stewardship invite you to take a new perspective on the impact of your life on the natural world around you? <p>Conclusion Reflection Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How has your view of discipleship changed over the past few weeks? What discipleship practice were you most drawn to at the start? Which one are you most drawn to now? Which one seems most challenging? What is an action you can take to make it less so? 	
SENDING FORTH	15 MINUTES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask participants where they might be called to live out the aspects of Follower and Worshiper in the next week Offer each person to name how they plan to focus on this feature of discipleship – whether through concrete action, change in attitude, or a commitment to prayer 	
BLESSING	
<p>Closing Prayer:</p> <p><i>May God bless you with ears to listen to the still, small voice</i> <i>May you have strength to follow Christ's call to be his disciple</i> <i>May you discern the Spirit's bountiful gifts showered upon you</i> <i>And may you live a life of service for others, in joy and gratitude</i></p>	