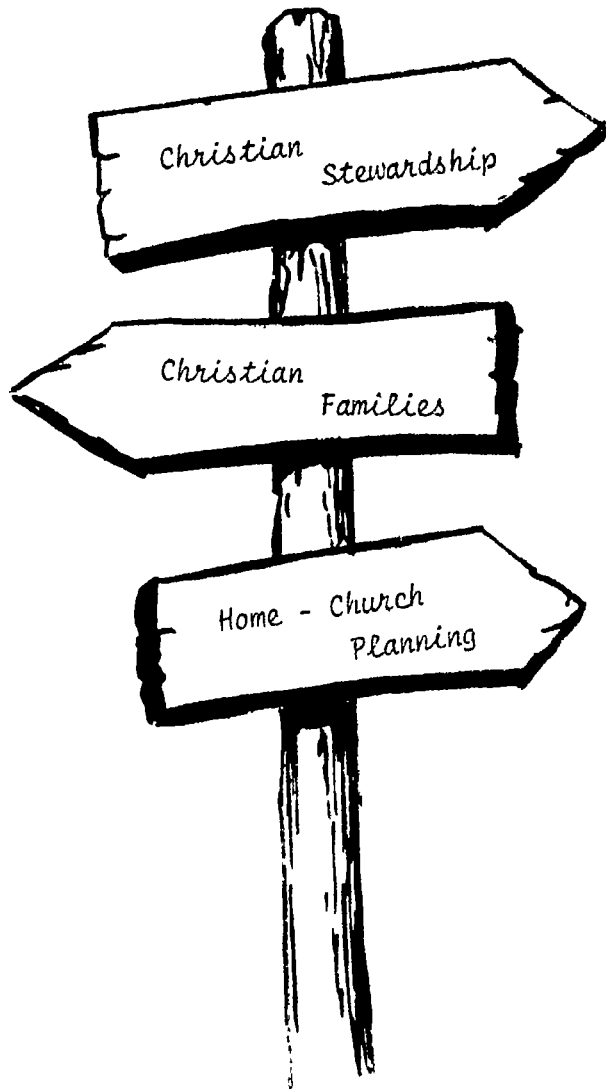


GROWTH

THROUGH



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Spring 1970

GROWTH THROUGH FAITHFULNESS

At the request of many, we are again including a post-Easter Faithful Emphasis program in the Sunday school packet. Here it is.

The great emphasis during this 6-week's program is our stewardship to the Lord -- total stewardship of the whole man and all of his possessions.

Someone has defined "stewardship" as "an overwhelming sense of responsibility for the Christian well-being of the world." Stewardship practices include our habits and attitudes toward giving and serving. But, understanding of stewardship can come only from being a good steward. Let us trust this understanding will come to many during this period.

Stewardship

National Family Week is proclaimed for May 3 - 10. The last Sunday of the Faithful Emphasis program introduces this week. Included in this manual are a number of suggestions for that week.

The importance of the home and family in relation to the church cannot be over emphasized. Let us put special emphasis upon this during the spring and summer. To help you do this, we have designed:

Family Week Ideas - see pages 21 - 26

Church-Home Ties - see packet addition

Family Vacation Kits

Family Reunion Day

coming in the summer packet

Family

And note Appreciation Day. Not an appreciation for those in your church but an awareness of the many individuals and institutions which are outside the church, but which are vital in maintaining the church. Don't miss it.

Design your Spring '70 program to make the greatest spiritual impact upon the community that it is possible for you and your church to make. And watch God bless and honor you.

Foursquare Publications
1100 Glendale Boulevard
Los Angeles, California
90026

STEWARDSHIP

What is stewardship?

When we speak of "Stewardship", we often think only of money. This is only part of it.

"Stewardship is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of ourselves and of all our possessions, based on the conviction that these are a trust from God to be used in His service, in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love."

When the New Testament talks about giving, it always starts with the giving of ourselves, not our money. Christ's severest criticisms were pronounced against the Pharisees, who were great at giving everything except themselves.

Your stewardship program should encompass the total man. This Faithful Emphasis program deals with the stewardship of

- Our attendance at God's house
- Our giving
- Our sharing of the Gospel
- Our service
- Our prayer life

God's good gifts surround us. Even life itself we owe to Him. His greatest Gift is Christ, who adds meaning to all our living. By our stewardship we show our gratitude to God. By our fruits we are known. And by living as branches of the true Vine, we find our deepest joy.

Pray that this 5-weeks' period will be the beginning of a new depth in the lives of many of your members. Ask the Lord to show them the true meaning of their faithful stewardship to Him.

The "growth" which our theme, "Growth through Faithfulness," emphasizes is the maturity of the Christian. Stewardship is a vital part of this.

Investments? Dividends are promised and assured, according to God's Word.

*"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
Matthew 6:20,21*

Program Possibilities

While the program is basically designed as a Sunday school emphasis, might we suggest that it could well become a total church thrust.

Sunday School	See the worship service ideas, page 8
Church Worship	See pages titled "The Acid Test" found in packet (for your pastor)
Adult Crusaders	See the program/activities, separate pages

The Sunday school worship programs can only hope to present a small part of the total desired emphasis. Carrying this throughout the total church program will allow for effective and in-depth coverage.

Program Theme

Through the program and central in the visuals is the theme of "investments". God has invested within each person a potential--many potentials. The Christian -- steward or guardian -- is responsible to reinvest these potentials, so as to bring dividends to the Owner, God himself.

Program Tools

Reference to the following items will be found throughout the program. Familiarize yourself with these tools and their total use. Note how each is used and order the necessary quantity for your church. (See order blank for guides, too.)

INVESTMENT FOLDER

Purpose

The folder is designed to be used with each Sunday school pupil. It can serve as:

1. An attendance folder for perfect attendance through this Faithful Emphasis program.
2. A personalized folder for each individual to record his personal stewardship to the Lord.

Directions

1. Give each individual his folder the first day of the Faithful Emphasis program. Ask him to write in his name.

2. Each Sunday: Stamp the folder with the day's date and give it to the pupil as he comes to Sunday school. (If you wish, each may take his home every week.)
3. Under "Investments": The main theme for each Sunday is noted by the one word on each line; i.e. "Attendance" for first Sunday; "Tithing" and "Missions Offerings" for second Sunday, etc. Space is provided for the individual to write in what investment he will make each week in regard to the subject discussed.

Example: When faithful attendance is presented the first week, ask each person to commit himself as to faithful attendance during the 5 weeks of this program. Therefore, he will write in "5 weeks faithful attendance" in the space under "Attendance."

Third week: Under "Gospel" pupils will write their goal for witnessing and winning for that week. If one determines to witness to one person each day, he will write in "witness to at least 7 persons."

Emphasize the thought that God has invested within each Christian certain potential for spreading the Gospel. But, each individual Christian must reinvest this potential if the work is to be accomplished.

4. Under "Dividends": With each investment--whether in attendance, giving, service--whatever--there are certain dividends which the Christian can realize:
 - Dividends for Christ and His work
 - Dividends for the Christian and his life.

As the superintendent mentions the dividends which the Christian can realize and places them in on the wall chart, the individual pupil should write in at least 2 of these dividends which he will claim as a result of his investment that week.

Example: A dividend for faithful attendance is spiritual growth through hearing the Word and through being obedient to God. Pupils might write in, "spiritual growth".

Space does not provide for much writing. The leader might suggest that the pupil choose just two of the dividends to record. As an individual matter, let him choose which he will write down.

5. Under "Balance": These Scriptures have promises for the believer who invests; some have conditions to accrue these promises. The verses should be pointed out as definite "credit" to the Christian as he is faithful in his total stewardship to the Lord.

The verse at the bottom of the folder (Matt. 25:21) should be pointed out on the last Sunday as a total promise for all who will be faithful over what God has given them now.

THE ACID TEST

A Condensation of
Three Sermons preached in Angelus
Temple November 9-16-23, 1969
By - Guy R. Duffield, S.T.D., D.D.

Every earnest Christian is anxious first, to do that which is pleasing to the Lord, and secondly to develop in his Christian life so that he might become more and more like Jesus. In Ephesians 4:13 Paul speaks of our coming "to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." I believe we all want to be spiritual. This is sometimes a very misunderstood thing. Some have thought the measure of a man's spirituality is the sanctimonious, pious attitude he adopts. Others are sure it is measured by the loudness and fervor with which he prays, testifies or praises the Lord. Let us bear in mind however, that spirituality is not measured by a sound meter. Still others believe spirituality is indicated by the peculiar, the strange things a person does. Some have come to recognize as manifestations of the Spirit only those unusual happenings in a service or in one's experience. The odd or the unexpected alone is considered spiritual. If a service or one's Christian life follows a well regulated pattern or plan there are those who doubt, or at least question, the spirituality of such.

Let me say quite clearly that the most spiritual man who ever lived was Jesus. Therefore to be spiritual is to be like Him. The one thing which characterized Him was that He was always doing the Father's Will. He was always pleasing the One who sent Him. I think we shall find that if we want to be spiritual - if we want to be like Jesus - we can best approach that goal by always doing the Will of God, Praying, testifying, praising the Lord, yielding to the Spirit and every other exercise of our Christian life comes under the heading of doing our Father's Will. And this is not completed by what we do in church. One gets tired of hearing of people who are so spiritual in church and yet so unlike Christ - and that means unspiritual - at home, in business or out with the crowd. One would almost think that God lived only in a church building and did not know what people did anywhere else. I believe one's spirituality is the average between what he does in church, at home, at work, at play, in his leisure moments, etc. A person's spirituality, stripped of all its vagueness, is the sum total of his Christian character.

Our Christian character is determined and manifested in a large degree in accordance with our relationship to the temporal things about us. If you want to know a great deal about a man's Christian character - about his fundamental relationship to God - find out about his attitude toward his temporal possessions. How does he regard his home, his car, his real estate, his salary, his stocks and bonds, his time and his talents. Is he like Nebuchadnezzar, who, surveying the great city that he had built, cried "Is not this great Babylon that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power and for the honor of my majesty?" Daniel 4:30. Does he think that he alone gained whatever wealth he had? That he has a right to spend and use it any way he chooses? That God has no plan - nothing to say? I am saying that a man's spirituality is judged by his attitude toward God's Will regarding his temporal possessions. Our soul is unseen and therefore quite easy to commit to God. It seems that it is not hard to trust Him for it because it is unseen. But what about committing to the Will of God our possessions that are seen? The Holy Spirit has put that principle into the Word of God - I John 4:20, "If a man say I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"

What a man does with his money is the acid test of his character. Some strongly object to a minister speaking of these matters, feeling that it is none of his business. However, it certainly is God's business and I am interested in your growing in your spiritual life, and this whole area of our temporal possessions is a vital part. If you object you are just proving the very thing I am saying. This becomes an indication that you are not as spiritual as you thought you were because you are not willing to bring your bank account into the perfect Will of God. You ask God to save your soul,

to heal your body, to bless your family but you won't ask Him to take charge of your financial assets.

In Matthew 19:16-22 we have a classic example of this very principle. It is the well-known story of the rich young ruler who came to Jesus asking a vital question, "Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" Jesus suggested that he should keep the commandments, and the young man asked which ones. Our Lord quoted a number of very important ones and the young man said, "All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?" And Jesus said, "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell all that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and follow me, but when the young man heard that saying he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions." His attitude toward his temporal assets certainly proved the acid test of his character. There is a great need in the world and the church for study of spiritual economics. Men are constantly making studies in the use of money in relation to business and society but why should we not master the fundamental relationship between a man's money and God. Let me give you several scriptural, and thus spiritual, principles with regard to this whole matter of our temporal possessions.

First in regard to acquiring - the first principle here is that what we have is not ours alone. Possession is not ownership. The Bible teaches us very clearly that temporal things belong to God. "Behold the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, and the earth also with all that therein is." Deuteronomy 10:14. "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein." Psalm 24:1. "The silver is mine and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts." Haggai 2:8.

Secondly we need to realize that what we have we did not get by ourselves. This great principle is clearly stated in Deuteronomy 8:17,18 "And thou say in thy heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God, for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth." Actually the value of any property is dependent upon three things. You might say there are three partners: First, God, who supplies life and the raw material. Secondly, the individual who supplies his time, energy and talent. And thirdly, society that supplies the market, the demand. It is certainly downright dishonest for one partner to claim complete ownership. It would be very interesting, if it were possible, to calculate what proportion each partner contributes to the value of any piece of property or any possession. God of course puts in by far the larger share. For instance: An ordinary blast furnace requires about 40,000 cubic feet of air per minute. A ton and a half of air is used each minute - 90 tons an hour or 2,160 tons a day. Now the owner of the blast furnace is powerless to contribute this factor. God must come into partnership or the business would not continue an hour. Of course He also has supplied the pigiron and the coal. So you see the individual puts in only a small proportion. And this is true of the commonest of businesses. "Back of the loaf is the snowy flour and back of the flour the mill; and back of the mill are the wheat and the shower, the sun and the Father's Will." A business man who ran an electric plant, an ice plant and a dairy said he was unable to make out that his contribution was more than 5%. Thus we cannot claim absolute ownership. We are in partnership with God. We are just stewards of what God has given to our keeping. A steward is the guardian of the interests of another. He owns nothing. The great parable of Matthew 25:14-30 illustrates this principle of stewardship. When we come to the Lord Jesus Christ and dedicate our lives to Him, then everything we have is His. In Luke 14:33 Jesus said, "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not ALL that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." So in reality the great question is not how much of my money will I give to God, but how much of God's money will I keep for myself? In the parable of Matthew 25 to which we referred, it was according to what the servants did with the talents entrusted to them, that we learn what kind of men they were. And so our stewardship will reveal what manner of men we are, for we must sooner or later give a strict accounting.

Stewardship is God's school preparing us for partnership with Himself. The things which we possess are the tools by which God tests our skill in acquiring and using, also our honesty in accounting for them. But the most important matter in this whole connections is the effect it will have upon our own hearts. Money molds men, in getting, saving, using, giving and accounting for it. According as it is handled it proves a blessing or a curse. Some people turn it into food which can either be meat or poison. Others turn it into clothes and either become a gentleman or a dandy. Others turn it into books and become a boastful infidel or a humble disciple. Money has more magical power than Alladin's lamp. No wonder Jesus had so much to say about man's attitude toward this commodity. Of His 38 parables, 16 relate to this theme. Throughout the four gospels it is reckoned one verse in every six deals with this subject. Thus our Lord takes money and makes it the touchstone to test the lives of men and an instrument for molding them into likeness to Himself.

In Matthew 6:19-21 we read, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal, but lay up for yourselfe treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Who was it that said 'Let me control the money of a nation and I care not who makes the laws?' This matter of temporal possessions and financial responsibilities has a great controlling effect upon nations and upon men. You have often heard it said, 'In order to really get to know a person you ought to live with him.' It might be even more true to say, "If you really want to know a person you ought to have money dealings with him." Cash is an acid test of character. Find out what a person spends his money on and you learn a great deal about him. When I see a man who cannot pass a Sporting Goods Store, that features fishing reels and tackle and the latest in fly rods, I know that man is a fisherman. When I see a lady who just must try on that beautiful dress in the store and window, I know I am dealing with one who is interested in her appearance. You have heard the old expression 'money talks'. Some of us are not on very good speaking terms with it. To most of us it just says "Goodbye." But it has a great deal to say and it speaks a varied language which reveals the true inward thoughts and character of men.

Remember God does not need your money but He does need you. He does not have you unless He has everything you possess. If a young man tells a young lady that he loves her with all of his heart but at the same time assures her he will not support her and she will have nothing whatsoever to do with the financial matters of their home and business. I would warn such a young lady that this is no foundation for a happy home. If we are going to dedicate ourselves to God and live for Him, everything must be put into His hands. Jesus said, in Matthew 6:21, "Where your treasure is there will your heart be also." He wants us to be sure our treasure is in the right place in order that our heart will be in the right place. He admonishes us not to lay up treasures here on earth where moth and rust corrupt and where thieves break through and steal but He says, "Lay up treasures for yourselves in heaven." NOTICE: "Lay up for YOURSELVES treasures in heaven." There is no finer way that you can serve yourself than to be obedient to what God tells you to do. The man who breaks this admonition of the Lord is not only denying God something but he is denying himself. Disobey God and you are going to deny yourself the joys of all eternity. Let us change the place of our treasure so we may change the place of our heart.

It is not right to departmentalize our lives into the secular and the spiritual - into the temporal and the eternal. Every day is God's day. Every experience should be a spiritual experience. God should enter every part of our life. Our Christianity is a mockery if God is not Lord of everything that we have and do. Too often we only let God into those areas of our life where we feel we need Him. If we want salvation, we turn to the Lord because we know we cannot save ourselves. If sickness comes, we turn to Him and ask for healing because we need Him there. We call the preacher to pray for our children if they go astray. You see, we ask God to come just at certain times.

We ask Him to enter certain sections of our life. God wants to be consulted in every phase of our life - not just when you have a financial problem. Why not talk to God when you have a financial blessing and put that in His hands as well. Nothing short of this is true consecration.

What you do with your money is very important, because your money is really you. Here is a laboring man. All week long he handles the pick and shovel and axe and hires himself out for \$1.65 an hour. At the end of the week he gets a check for something less than \$66.00 and puts it in his pocket. Actually he has put \$66.00 worth of himself into his pocket - his time, his energy, his talent. The Executive may earn \$500.00 a week, but at the end of that week he puts \$500.00 worth of himself into his bank account. His pay check represents himself. Some of you young folks who aren't working, and your Dad gives you a \$1.00 a week or so to spend, you are carrying around a dollars worth of your father in your pocket. Our money represents us. It actually becomes coined personality. So whatever you do with your money, you are doing with yourself. Dr. Kuyler said, "What a young man earns in the day time goes into his pocket, but what he spends at night goes into his character." It is so important how we earn our money, how we spend it and how we save it. Because money makes the man. Money actually is the man. Money and the things it represents has a magical faculty of turning back on the individual who handles it according to the way it is handled. When men work with money it becomes a tool; when they play with it, it becomes a toy. Those who handle it are never the same after. The way we use it leaves a mark on ourselves that can never be erased. You may not realize it but the process goes on. Here is a watch maker. He is making a watch but he is doing something more important than that. He is making himself. He is developing his own skill, his own patience, his own judgment all the time he is making the watch. He is really making himself.

Henry Drummond put it this way, "An office is not merely a place for making money, it is a place for making men. A work shop is not a place for making machinery only. It is a place for making souls. For turning out honest, modest and good-natured men." Paul recognized the importance of what a man does with his money when, in I Timothy 3:1-13, he outlines the requirements of those who would be leaders in the work of God. Among other requirements for elders and deacons was, "not greedy of filthy lucre." Which simply means that he ought to know how to handle his money if he is going to handle the work of the Lord. Jesus warns us against "the deceitfulness of riches" Mark 4:19. Who was it that said, "Money will buy anything but happiness and take you anywhere but to heaven"? Money is deceitful and it has choked out the Word of God in all too many lives. Jesus, in Mark 10:24, shows how hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God. He says it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. The disciples said, "Lord, how can these things be?" Jesus said, "With man it is impossible but with God all things are possible."

I am sure it is the desire of every sincere Christian to be like his Lord. One of the great characteristics of God is His generosity. So if we want to be like Him we are going to have to learn this characteristic." The Scripture says, "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver," and it has often been pointed out that the word has the connotation of 'hilarious giver.' Do you know why God loves hilarious givers? Because that is the kind of Giver He is. There is not a limited promise in the Word of God. Every one of them says you will get everything you ask - more than enough, "good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over shall men give into your bosom." My God shall supply, not half but ALL YOUR NEEDS. In Acts 17:25 we read, "He Himself giveth to all, life and breath and all things." Acts 14:17, "He gave you from heaven rains and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness." Deuteronomy 8:18, "It is He that giveth thee power to get wealth." God is always on the giving hand. John 3:16, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." Romans 8:32, "He that spared not His own Son but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things." I Timothy 6:17, "God giveth us richly all things to enjoy."

So if we are going to be like Him we need to learn to give. As human beings, we are naturally selfish. This is the result of sin. I want my own way, I want my own things, I want to do what I want to do. I don't want to obey God. I don't want to come under His rule and His leadership. Rebellion is selfishness. We need the grace of God to break down this characteristic within ourselves and teach us how to be generous as God is generous. The grace of giving is the great antidote for human selfishness. This is why the Bible says so much about it. God wants to help us overcome this great weight and hindrance in our lives. He wants us to learn to be unselfish.

Now I emphasize again, God has no need of gifts from us. Paul said, in Acts 17:24, 25, "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." I don't go up to a multi-millionaire and say, "My friend I feel impressed to give you 75¢." How silly! He doesn't need it. But I surely would like to make a friend of that multi-millionaire. I would like to cultivate his fellowship. Giving is not for God's benefit half as much as it is for our own. It opens up the avenues of our soul until all this selfishness that is caused by our sinful nature is broken down and we begin to enjoy something of the spirit of the heart of our God. Oh, it's more blessed to give than it is to receive. The silver and the gold are His. God could finance His work if He wanted to. But thank the Lord He gives us the opportunity of having a part in it. He knows that the only way that we can overcome this selfishness of our nature and become more like Him is by sharing and by giving and investing in His great service. God could take care of every need instantly, but He wants us to grow more and more into His likeness. It takes a lot of patience for God to wait until we learn this but He is interested in our spiritual development. So stewardship is not so much the matter of raising money - Stewardship is a matter of training men for God. There is a big, long eternity out there and you and I are going to have the privilege of serving God somewhere, somehow for all that time. Let's learn to be like Him even in this glorious grace of giving!

Lest we should feel that this is not important - God has given us two outstanding warnings in the Bible. One is at the beginning of the experience of the children of Israel. The other is at the very beginning of the Christian Church. When Joshua and the children of Israel were facing the city of Jericho, Joshua said, "Don't any of you touch any of the spoil. It is all to be dedicated to God." The people marched around the walls of Jericho and they came tumbling down. It was a day of glorious triumph. The next point in their conquest was a little city of Ai. The people said there is no use taking a whole army up there. Let's take two or three thousand of our best men and send them. It won't take any time to dispense with them. So they sent 3000 men and they were defeated and came home saying, "What's the matter, we thought God was going to give us this land?" Joshua fell on his face praying and crying unto God. The Lord said to him, "Joshua, get up, what are you praying about? - Israel has sinned and until that sin is confessed you cannot have victory." Somebody had broken God's Word and taken some of the spoil. So Joshua gathered the people together and it was determined that Achan was the transgressor. Joshua said, "What have you done?" Achan replied, "When I saw the goodly Babylonish garment and the wedge of gold and the 200 shekels of silver, then I coveted them and I took them and I hid them in my tent." So Joshua sent some men up to Achan's tent and there they found the treasure. What did Joshua do? A terrible thing. But it is a warning to everyone of us. They brought Achan, his wife, his family, his children and his flocks and herd and everyone of them was stoned to death and a great pile of rocks was built up over them. That is the only time in the Old Testament that we read of such a thing, but it is a lesson for us to know what God thinks of the sin of covetousness. He doesn't have to do this same thing on every occasion. He did it once that we might learn the importance of obeying Him.

In the New Testament we read of Ananias and Sapphira who had a piece of property and they agreed when they sold it, all of it would go to the Lord. But when they saw how much they got, they held the money in their hands and the old selfishness of the human heart began to work. So they brought in part of the sale price. Peter said, "Ananias, what about it - why have you done this?" and God smote Ananias dead and the young men came in and bound him up in the traditional grave clothes and took him out and buried him. About three hours later, not knowing what had happened, his wife, Sapphira came in. Peter said, "Sapphira, how much did you sell the property for, What did you give?" Why has Satan filled thine heart that thou should lie unto the Holy Ghost, behold the feet of them that buried your husband are at the door and they will take you out too," and she died instantly. The young men carried Sapphira out and laid her in the sepulcher beside her husband. Now my friends, every time a Christian has made a sincere promise to God and hasn't kept it; every time a Christian has made a pledge to a building fund or to the foreign missionary program and he hasn't kept it, he has not dropped dead. But that is what God thinks of that sin. That is what the Bible says about lying to the Holy Ghost. These two great warning posts; one at the beginning of the children of the children of Israel's experience in the Promised Land and one at the launching of the great world-wide mission of the church of Jesus Christ! I tell you, these things are important because God wants us to grow and be like Himself. God wants us to have all the blessings that come when we walk in fellowship with Him.

Now it seems to me that some areas of the Christian life are difficult. I do not know how to manufacture the power of the Holy Ghost. I cannot perform miracles. I cannot stir up great spiritual power by myself to thrill audiences and win them to Christ. All of these things rest in God's hands and we are dependent upon Him for these. But there are some things I can do. I can bring all my tithes into the storehouse. I can give my offering as God lays it upon my heart. These are things I can do, and I have the firm conviction that if I will do what I can do, God will do what only He can do. If you and I will be faithful in our part, God will be faithful in His and heaven will be opened upon our lives.

Since giving is not so much a means of raising money as it is of raising men, in the likeness of the Lord, the question quite naturally comes, Now, how much shall I give? There is only one answer to that question and that is the answer of the Bible. We have advocated that we take God's Word for direction in every sphere of our life. If we are going to grow spiritually we are going to have to grow Scripturally. So we need to know what the Bible says in this area. In the very opening chapters of the Old Testament you read of men bringing their offerings to God. And one of the first things we read in the New Testament is of the wise men presenting gifts to the infant child Jesus. Wise men indeed they were! In the first reference you see Cain and Abel bringing an offering to God. God gave recognition to Abel's offering but He rejected Cain's. Apparently there was something wrong in the giving of one of these brothers, which leads us to believe that there is a right and wrong way of giving. The important thing is to find the right way to bring our offerings to the Lord. I would like to get my cash book into alignment with God's Will now rather than to wait until the day when it will be everlastingly too late.

I like this little man Zacchaeus. I don't like what he did before he met Jesus but I like what he did after he met Him. His first act was to submit his financial account to the divine audit of the Lord Jesus Christ. When he was up in the Sycamore tree Jesus saw him and called him down, and on the way home Zacchaeus opened his books as it were and said, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. Luke 19:8. Jesus instantly put his stamp of approval on the financial reckonings of this former publican. I wonder if anything can be more truly a book of life than that in which people do their financial bookkeeping. Here is revealed their heart as far as their generosity, their self-centeredness and their love for God and souls is concerned. Most people begin being faithful to God concerning their giving when they

see the light of the Scriptures and from then on they make a covenant that they will do what the Word of God tells them. But Zachaeus went back and began to straighten up some of the things that had taken place before he met Jesus. So he says, "Lord if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation in the past, I'll give him four times as much." I wonder what would happen to some if they started to take care of past accounts. I don't know how many have the courage to try.

Certainly God does have a definite plan for our giving. In every part of the Bible we are taught that we should give proportionately - a definite proportion of what we receive. This is a grand way of giving because those who cannot give very much are giving just as much proportionately as the folk whose income makes it possible for them to give a great more. We are all one in Christ Jesus and especially if we adopt this principle on giving. "What proportion shall I give?" The principle of tithing is taught throughout the entire Word of God. "What is a tithe?" It is just one tenth of everything that you have.

The first mention of tithing is in Genesis 14:18-20, when Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek, the Priest of the Most High God. The second time tithing is mentioned, was when Jacob was fleeing from the wrath of his brother Esau. He saw in a vision the ladder set up on earth, reaching to heaven and the angels of God ascending and descending. God promised that He would be with him as he went to the far country of Padan-Aram. Jacob made a covenant with the Lord and said, "If God will be with me and keep me... of all that thou shalt give me, I will surely give the tenth unto thee." Gen. 28:22. Both of these were before the giving of the law. I do not know why Abraham and Jacob gave a tenth unless God somehow made them to know that this was His plan. Later the principle of tithing was incorporated into the law. Every Israelite was to bring one tenth of his income to the Temple to be used by the Priests and the Levites. They had no possessions of their own, but they gave all of their time to administering the spiritual life of Israel. Numbers 18:26-29 and Leviticus 27:30-32. But the children of Israel apparently also were required every three years to bring a second tithe so that they might take care of the poor in their midst. Deuteronomy 14:22,23. Also the Israelites were to bring free will offerings. Somebody has figured that between one fifth and one third of the Jewish income was to be brought to the Temple of the Lord. Failing to do this was considered robbing God. Malachi 3:10. Apparently the tithe belonged to God and the Israelite was not giving until he went above the tithe. Now the lovely thing is that God's blessing accompanied this plan. In the world we would say, "If you want to get prosperous, save," But the Bible says if you want to be prosperous, give. It does seem backwards, but that is what the Lord does in so many things. If you want to be exalted, humble yourself. If you want to receive, give. He promised that if they would bring their tithes into the storehouse, He would open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing so that there would not be room enough to contain it. He would rebuke the devourer for their sake so their crops would not fail and every one would call them "blessed." That is in the Old Testament.

Now Jesus taught this same principle of proportionate giving. In Luke 6:38, "Give, and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that you mete withal it shall be measured to you again." If you use a cup in giving you will get a cup-full back. If you use a bushel barrel in giving you will get a bushel barrel of blessing back. Apparently the measure of our giving to God is the measure of God's giving to us. We should make our offerings according to our income or the Lord might make our income according to our offering.

What does Paul say about giving? I Corinthians 16:2 says, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come." II Corinthians 9:7 reads - "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." Here are four principles given us in the Epistles:- First, we are to give on the first day of the week, that means systematically. Secondly, it says "Let each of you give" so that means we give individually. It is for everyone. Thirdly -

"As God hath prospered him." That is proportionately. Then fourthly - "According as he purposeth in his heart." Some say, "That is the way I want to give. Giving a certain per cent does not appeal to me. I want to give as I purpose in my heart." That is fine providing you be sure to purpose in your heart. Some people read that Scripture and they never really purpose in their heart. They just give what is at hand when the offering is received. Let's make sure that we do SINCERELY purpose in our heart!

There are those who claim that tithing is not taught in the New Testament, therefore not for us today. Usually the person who does so says that because he does not want to give that much. I believe God has something even better than tithing, but I am not willing to admit that we should do less. We in the New Testament era who recognize the great benefits of God's grace certainly ought to be more gracious and more generous in our appreciation for what God has done for us. If you give less than one-tenth you have no Scriptural basis for your giving whatsoever. In the parables given by Jesus of the pound and the talents, it is clearly indicated that God put these men in a position where they were stewards of what He gave them. But the Lord always returned for an accounting. If God is going to ask us for an account of what we did with what was entrusted to us then we better keep an account ourselves, because that is the only way to know how much you are giving. It is probably true that those who do not keep an account think they give a lot more than they actually do. In the book called "The Victory of Mary Christopher" there was a Mrs. Midgen who says, "A tenth indeed! I think Mr. Randolph is perfectly morbid on the subject. Of course I do not keep an account of how much I give, I am not such a Pharisee as that; but I am sure it is much more than one-tenth. In fact I should not be surprised if I gave almost a twentieth.

There is only one thing wrong with the system of tithing. It makes folk feel that they have done enough when they give a tenth, whereas God may want them to do much more. I read of a great man of God who said he thought it was a sad thing that there are millions of dollars lying in banks belonging to the children of God that ought to be out winning souls to Jesus Christ. The owners of that money thought they had done all that was necessary because they had given one-tenth.

Considering the teaching of the entire Bible covering before the law, during the law, Jesus' teaching and the apostles' teaching, I believe the following principles should guide the Christian in his giving: Tithing is the minimum - one tenth. The tithe should be brought to the place where he worships God. The Bible says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse." The storehouse is where you get your food. I have never been one to feel that I should send my tithe all over the world. It belongs in the storehouse where I get my spiritual food. No one would think of eating a meal in a nice restaurant and paying his bill in a small, struggling cafe just because he thought they needed the money. We pay our money where we get our food. Christians are sometimes guilty of failing to recognize the responsibility they have to the place from which their spiritual food and strength comes. They feel sorry for somebody else and send their tithe there. Now there is nothing wrong with sending an offering wherever you want, but if I understand the Bible, the tithe belongs in the storehouse. Should the tithe be on the gross income or should it be on the take home pay? Some of us remember when that question never came up because nothing was deducted from our pay. I think a person ought to tithe on his gross and not on his net. Why should God pay your Social Security, your Old Age Pension, your Hospital Insurance and these other things? If a man is in business for himself we recognize that he has to take out the expenses of his business and he only tithes on the profit.

Secondly, we should consider that the tenth is not all, because if we only do that we are no better than the saints of the Old Testament and, under the glorious grace of God, we ought to surpass them. We ought to at least tithe and then let God talk to us about our Missionary giving and any other appeals to which we desire to respond.

Thirdly, God's portion should be taken out first. "Honor the Lord with thy substance and with the firstfruits of thine increase." Proverbs 3:9. The firstling of the flock was to be brought to the Lord. Genesis 4:4. "The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the Lord thy God/" Exodus 23:19. And Jesus said, in Luke 12:31,

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God." The idea of paying all of your bills and then if you have anything left over you give it to God is not Scriptural. God does not want the left-overs. He wants the first. If we will honor Him in this way He will honor us. Fourthly, let me say that I do not believe we should give just that we might receive. We should give because of what He has given us, of gratitude for all He has done for us. However, you can not deny God the privilege of doing what His generous heart desires, and here are five promises from His Word:

Proverbs 3:9 - "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." Hallelujah! Proverbs 11:24,25 - "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered also himself." Malachi 3:10 - "Bring ye all the tithe into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." II Corinthians 9:6 "But I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." Everybody knows that if you do not put enough seed in the ground you will not get a good harvest in return. The harvest will be in proportion to the seed that is sown. Actually giving is sowing. A good brother told me that instead of waiting to the end of the month and putting in the tithe of what God had given he sowed his tithe at the first of the month. He felt challenged to decide what income he needed for the month so in the first two weeks he put in the offering what he believed God was going to give him. Then through that month he saw God send it in. I have never heard of that before but it is interesting!

Evangelist John R. Rice, in one of his books, tells what to me was a thrilling experience. He was holding a meeting a number of years ago in west Texas and one afternoon in an old brush arbor he was telling the folks about God's plan for finances as it is in the Word of God. A man stepped up and said, "May I give my testimony?" John R. Rice said, "Go ahead." He said, "For many years I have been a county missionary here in west Texas. Years ago there came a very rich merchant by the name of Mr. Duke, who challenged people to give, that God in turn might give back to them. As we finished in one place I would take him to another place and again he would throw out the challenge. As we were riding along in the buggy Mr. Duke said to me, "do you believe in tithing?" "Oh yes, Mr. Duke, I certainly do!" He said, "Do you preach it?" "Yes I do, I advocate that Christians ought to tithe." Then Mr. Duke said, "Do you practice it?" I had to hang my head and say, "No, I believe in it, I teach it but I cannot afford to tithe." I said, "Mr. Duke, I am a County Missionary, and my salary is \$125.00 a month, \$1500.00 a year, I have 13 children and, every time we sit down to the table, 15 mouths have to be fed. I also have to provide food for my horse and provide my buggy, and by the time I take care of the needs of my family I just cannot tithe. Mr. Duke said, "Would you like to be able to tithe?" I said, "There is nothing more in the world I would rather do!" Mr. Duke then said, "Will you enter into an agreement with me? The first of every month will you take at least \$12.50 out of your check and give it to the work of the Lord? At the end of the month if you have some bills that are not paid, will you promise to let me know and by return mail, I'll send you whatever you need. I hung my head a little for I did not quite want to agree. But Mr. Duke said, "Don't worry at all, I have 23 stores, I am a rich man and I can well afford to do this. Finally we entered into the bargain. I said, "Oh how happy this is going to make me feel. No longer will I feel condemned when I advocate that other people obey the Word of God in tithing! So the very next month I took out \$12.50 and put it into the work of the Lord. You know, a strange thing began to happen. When I would be at a place holding a meeting someone would come along and tie a crate of chickens onto the back of my buggy. Sometimes someone would slip a ham in my buggy, or a lady would put in a box of home preserves. A farmer came over to me and said, "I don't have room for all my corn in my crib, may I bring some over and put it in yours?" Another came along with a huge load of hay and said, "Will you take this for your horse." It went on like this and you know that whole year we never had a doctor bill. Not one of the children got sick and for some reason their clothes seemed to last longer. When that year had passed I had never had to ask Mr. Duke for one penny. The nine-tenths went farther than the ten-tenths. Then one day, a little after the end of the year, I began to think what Mr. Duke had promised to do for me, God had already promised long before. I took the word of a man instead of the Word of God. I believed a man rather than believing God. Oh, it was a lesson to me. Since then, my salary has been increased, my needs have been met and I have had the joy of tithing and giving over in abundance. God has always met my needs." Hallelujah!

You know we have a wonderful God. It is a privilege to be stewards of what is His and it is a joy to be faithful and obedient in what He would have us to do. You and I have no conception how God will bless us. May I encourage you, if you haven't started on this program of Scriptural giving that you do it for the glory of the Lord.

Investments and savings books also have a column marked "Withdrawals". The investor chooses to take out the money put in, thus reducing his balance.

There are sometimes Christians who "withdraw" from the ministry of the church by not investing their talents in His service. They do not realize the full extent of Christian stewardship, and are not receiving the rewards now or shall not in the future. Such Christians are missing the true joy of the Christian life.

Stewardship is a natural flowing of Christian dedication. Christian maturity does not say, "give me", but "make me". God does bless and shape lives--make them after His will--as they are dedicated to Him.

CHART

Purpose

To provide a visual to record the stewardship emphasis each week.

Directions

You will note that the chart is similar to the Investment Folder. The chart is to be used by the leader as the presentation is made.

1. Back chart with cardboard, or place on wall. (As you will be writing on the chart, it will need to be firmly positioned--where it can be easily read.)
2. Cut out the word cards for each week. These can be adhered to the chart with plasti-tak or tape. Put each word card up as indicated in the worship program outline. Two cards are prepared for each week. Each is numbered to correspond with numbers in the worship outlines.

It is suggested that the superintendent prepare a third word card for each week. If a further suggestion comes from the pupil, letter this in and place it on the chart as well. Space has been provided for this.

3. Scripture verse for the last Sunday, Matt. 25:21, should be placed on the chart after it has been completed. (See worship outline).

Program Basics

Leader, we cannot ask pupils to share an experience with us unless we ourselves are doing it. What is our individual pattern of stewardship?

What is our understanding of the basic concept of true Bible stewardship?

True stewardship says:

1. The Christian is a steward, not an owner. He is the guardian over the interest of another--the Lord himself. And as a guardian, he must give an account of that which is entrusted to his keeping. Review Psalms 24:1.
2. It is impossible to ignore the subject of stewardship and have the blessing of God. It is as much a part of our worship as prayer or singing of hymns. The "giving" of stewardship is more than money.
3. Why should the Sunday school teach stewardship?
 - a. We must teach people a right relationship with God in regard to their material possessions.
 - b. Stewardship is a spiritual experience, in which one person can lead another, just as he could in the matter of salvation. Change may bring some pain. But, the Sunday school must ask itself, "What is the purpose of our existence if we are not willing for lives to be changed for the glory of God?"
4. What is the value of teaching stewardship? Can we imagine the potential of the total congregation which can be realized when
 - a. The congregation is taught basic principles of stewardship?
 - b. Opportunities for service are clearly presented in appealing and inspiring ways?
 - c. Challenge to greater service is presented within the framework of Christian experience and a planned program?

Review these thoughts time and time again until true Biblical stewardship becomes a part of your thinking--and doing. Review the following Scriptures:

I Peter 4:7, 10 (Amplified)
II Cor. 9:7; 8:5
I Cor. 16:2
Mark 10:45
Mark 12:42-44

Luke 14:28; 12:42, 48; 11:42
Psa. 24:1
I Tim. 6:17
John 15:15 (not servants, friends)
I Cor. 3:0
Luke 19:8

Program Introduction

TO THE STAFF

When the pre-Easter plans are presented, include a brief explanation of the post-Easter planning, too.

Briefly introduce the Faithful Emphasis program as a part of the total spring emphasis. It is not necessary to show the visuals or present a full outline of this now, but neither should it be "sprung" on the staff immediately after Easter.

Workers' Conference

The following plan might be used also to introduce the theme to the Sunday School Cabinet prior to the workers' conference.

1. Review the Program Basics on the preceding page. Have a thorough understanding of the total concept of Biblical stewardship--all of man and all of his possessions.
2. Give each one present a 3 x 5 index card. Ask him to write down his definition of "stewardship". Collect these cards to be read later.
3. Give several persons a scripture to find and read. (Use list, page 6).
4. Discussion: Introduce stewardship by talking about "investments". Use the following questions as guides:
 - a. What is an investment?
 - b. If money is invested in a company, who owns it--the company or the investor?
 - c. What is the company's responsibility for this investment? Suppose the company fails in its task? (There are no dividends).
 - d. What is the difference between an "owner" and a "steward"? (See page 6).
5. Read the definitions which were handed in. Do not read the names. As a result of the discussions and of the definitions, ask the group together to frame a definition of "stewardship". Guide the group in this, making sure it includes a true Biblical concept--of the total man and his total possessions.
6. Discussion: Point out that God has invested in each of his children certain "possessions" -- abilities, gifts, resources, etc. As the Owner, He expects dividends from his investments; as stewards we are responsible to re-invest all we are and have to bring about the greatest dividends possible for Him.

This is the crux of the stewardship program.

7. Present the Chart and the Investment Folders. Show how these are to be used. (With the Sunday School Cabinet, give each leader a manual with the full program. Point out the weekly worship programs and brainstorm together as to adaptations and variation.)
8. For departmental sessions, allow the superintendents to review the total program with their workers. Encourage them to discuss it together in detail.

TO THE CONGREGATION

Don't promote this as a "program". Stewardship instruction and participation should be a natural part of the total teaching ministry of the church. Stewardship is not man's plan for making money, but God's plan for making men. Bring this concept to your congregation.

1. Point out that the following 5 Sunday's special emphasis will be given to Christian stewardship. Define stewardship fully.
2. Challenge each member to be in faithful attendance for these 5 Sundays.
3. Introduce the "investment" theme. Tell the members that much will be said about investments and dividends, and how to profit from such.
4. If you wish, use the Investment Folder as a commitment card. Ask each one to sign his name in the space provided, committing himself to faithful attendance for this period.

Emphasize total stewardship continually. "Brainwash" the Sunday school members to understand that each is a steward--guardian--over what God has invested in him. The Owner gives an account to no one, but a guardian must give an account of that which has been entrusted to his keeping.

Worship Service Outlines

The following pages contain Sunday morning programs for 5 weeks of the Faith Emphasis program. Careful preparation of these is vital for an effective presentation.

GROWTH THROUGH FAITHFUL ATTENDANCE

Purpose

To introduce the meaning of total stewardship. To show that faithful attendance at my church is part of my total stewardship.

Scripture

Hebrews 10:25: Acts 2:42

Appropriate Songs

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"
"To God be the Glory"

Presentation

As this is the beginning Sunday of the stewardship emphasis, start by introducing the concept--the total definition of stewardship. Emphasize that we are faithful stewards, not because others expect it of us, or because "everyone's doing it", but because of our love for Christ.

1. Give each person a 3 x 5 card as he enters. Ask him to write down the one greatest benefit to him as a Christian that is derived from church attendance. Collect these as the worship time begins.
2. Ask 2 pupils to present the following outline.
 - I. What is my church?
 - a. Is it the walls, foundation, etc.? No.
 - b. It is the people. (I Cor. 3:9)
 - II. Why is my faithful attendance important?
 - a. The Word admonishes it. (Heb. 10:25. Note content)
 - b. It strengthens me. (Acts 2:42)
 - c. It encourages others to attend.
 - d. It testifies of my love for Christ.
 - e. It shows my support for keeping the church doors open.
3. Read several of the cards which state the benefits of attendance.
4. Using the chart visual, recap the presentation. Place the word cards on the chart for the first Sunday. Use cards #1 and 2. (Prepare another card and, using a felt pen, write in another suggestion which came from your group).
5. Refer to the Investment Folder. Give these out if they have not already received them. Explain its use (see page 4). Ask each one to fill in his "investment" - commitment - as far as attendance is concerned for the next 5 weeks. (If he will be faithful for the 5 weeks, ask him to write "5 weeks' faithful attendance" in the space under "Attendance").

Point out the column, "Dividends". Show the similarity between your chart and the investment book. Ask each one to write in 2 benefits (dividends) which he can realize from faithful church attendance. (This should be his personal response; each may be different).

6. On the chalkboard, print in large letters the word CHURCH. Erase the letter "U". This is what our church would be like without YOU.
7. Announce the adult Crusader discussion for that evening if they are following the suggested subjects to correlate with the stewardship theme. (See packet enclosure.)

Children's Adaptions

1. Prepare a "Faithful Attendance" chart for each child. This could be a chart on which a star or other seal is added each week; it might be a "garden" where a flower is added, etc. Allow the children to discuss why they like to come to church.
2. Make Sunday school and church attendance a satisfying experience for each child. This begins the building for further faithful attendance.

Additional Ideas

1. Prepare a poster which reads, "His Love--My Response, be in church each Sunday". Use it either before or after the presentation. Put it in an obvious place for all to see.
2. Write a letter of appreciation to the local and/or state government, expressing appreciation for the special services which your church enjoys in the community--tax exemption, police and fire protection, etc. This may be signed by either the pastor and church council or by all of the members.
3. Mimeograph and distribute the following to everyone above primary age.

"I'm only onx pxrson in the Sunday school, what can I do in the harvxst fixld?"

Vxvxn though my typxritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxxcpt for onx of thx kxys. I havx wishxd many timxs that it workxd pxrxfxctly. It is trux thxrx arx forty-six kxys that function wxll xnough, but just onx kxy not working makxs thx diffxrxncx.

Somxtimxs it sxxms to mx that our Sunday school is somxwhat likx my typxwritxr--not all thx kxy pxoplx arx working propxrlly.

You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I am only onx pxrson. It won't makx much diffxrxncx." But, you sxx, thx Sunday school, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of xvxy pxrson.

So thx nxxt timx you think you arx only onx person and that your xffort is not nxxdxd, rxxmxbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I am a kxy pxrson and nxxdxd vxry much as a laborxr in thx HARVXT FIXLD!"

4. Gimmick Poster: Draw a hand of bananas, with one banana which is broken away from the bunch, and which is partly peeled. Caption: "Remember it is the banana that leaves the bunch that gets peeled. Attend church with us."

GROWTH THROUGH GIVING

This is the regular Sunday School Missions Sunday. The missionary story covers the growth of the Foursquare work in the Philippine Islands. Too, the stewardship emphasis is upon giving--both tithe and offering. You cannot possibly use all of the materials which are available for this week. However, study the total of these materials and decide upon the best plan for your church and department.

Purpose

To show that Christians must be good stewards of their financial resources.

Scripture

Luke 6:38

Appropriate Songs

"Give of Your Best to The Master"
"Thou Art Worthy"

Presentation

1. Pass out the Investment Folder to each individual as he enters. Be sure to stamp the date in each. Point out that you will be using the two lines, "Tithe" and "Missions Offering" this morning.
2. Prepare the following outline for presentation. It may be presented by one or more of the pupils, or as a discussion, with the leader using the questions as a guide.

I. Tithing

- A. What is it?
(A tenth of man's net income)
- B. Shall I give all my tithe through my church?
(Mal. 3:10a. Storehouse is where we get our spiritual food; our church. Note it says all the tithes.)
- C. Is it easier to tithe on a large income than on a small income?

John D. Rockefeller said, "I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary, which was \$1.50 a week."

Jesus talked about the "deceitfulness of riches". Rarely do people begin to tithe after their incomes have increased. We are not to measure our giving by the giving of others. We are to be obedient with what we have.

D. Should some give more than a tithe?

The larger standard of Christian stewardship is not satisfied by merely tithing. Tithing is what one "owes" God: above that are our offerings.

E. Is it really Biblical?

Review mimeographed sheet. (See below). If it was passed out the week before, ask for review of it. If it is given out now, direct them to the instructions. Quickly recap this to answer the above questions.

II. Missionary Offerings

A. Some hesitate to stress missionary giving for fear the tithe or regular Sunday school offering will suffer. Experience has taught that those who give liberally for foreign missions are careful to meet their local church obligations, too.

B. God could have arranged to have his gospel propagated without our help, but He, in love and mercy, has given us a part in spreading the good news. He makes it possible for us to have so we can give a portion back to Him.

3. Point out the Investment Folder. Remind each that his commitment is to be recorded under "Investments" -- what he will reinvest of his financial substance in the work of the Lord.

Ask for suggestions from the group as to what might be recorded under "Dividends". After this discussion, put up word cards #3 and #4. Fill in, with a felt pen, the third card for this week. (From the group's suggestions) and put it up, too. Place word card #5 under "Mission's Offering". Again, ask for suggestions for a second card under this heading.

4. Prayer: Satan uses every means to rob God's people of the blessings which are rightfully theirs. He will keep them from giving for God's work if he can. Pray that the grace of giving will flourish in your Sunday school.
5. Again, if the Adult Crusaders are using the suggested coorelated outlines, announce the program for tonight. (See packet enclosures.)

Children's Adaptions

1. Prepare a poster with \$3.00 taped on it, in the following manner:

1-dollar bill	10 dimes	3 quarters
		1 dime
		2 nickels
		5 pennies

Each of these represents \$1.00. Define "tithe" - the tenth--and show that of each dollar, 10 cents is "owing" to the Lord. Discuss, too, that all we have belongs to God (Psa. 24:1) and we should carefully consider how we invest what we have.

All children handle money they can call their own. In teaching stewardship, the great concern should not be how much money they receive, but teaching the responsibility they have to the kingdom of God in relationship to that money.

Children will give more if the purpose for giving is related to their own world of experience. They must be able to visualize the object for which they are contributing. Always associate the stewardship program with the specific needs of the church.

Children equate their coins--usually a nickel, dime or quarter--to what it will buy. A nickel is equated with the price of gum, or a candy bar; a quarter with a comic book, small bag of candy. The children know and understand the value of these items.

The appeal is for the children to sacrifice one of these luxuries with which they deal so frequently. A nickel given in Sunday school is evidence of one unpurchased candy bar, an eloquent testimony of the child's love for God. The coin given can be related to the needs of others and in particular some item which it may purchase and with which the child may be familiar (literature, a chair, etc.)

Added Ideas

1. Your Money is You

Our money does represent us--our labor, service, personality. We spend it for the things we believe in. There is a close relationship between the way we use our money and the values we hold.

Warren Walker stepped to the teller's window. He listened to the thump of the rubber stamp on his paycheck and to the clerk's monotonous, "20, 40, 50..." without really hearing it.

Suddenly his face paled. He looked wildly about him and then once again at the bills in his hand. Instead of the pictures of Washington, Lincoln, Hamilton in their customary places as they should have been, he saw himself--Warren Walker, the "I", the "me"--right there in the center of those bills.

Then Warren did a most proper thing; he thought about it: "I guess that's really not so strange," he reasoned. "I get paid for the work I do; therefore that money represents me. It's my personality translated into a negotiable form. I can do with it what I want." From then on Warren had himself a blast. He sends "himself"--his money--all over the world. In one place he trades "himself" for something he wanted. In another he saves for future use, and in yet another he helps a poor family. Warren's whole story makes a humorous cartoon fantasy entitled, "The Miracles of Warren Walker."

2. Gimmick Poster: Picture a man talking to a \$1.00 bill. Caption: "Tell your money where to go instead of asking where it went. PRACTICE CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP."

3. Mimeograph the following to be passed out to all above primary age. This may be passed out the week prior. Ask each person to look up Scriptures which relate to this and come prepared to discuss it the next week. Or, it may be given out on the second Sunday. (See outline.)

What the Bible Teaches about Giving

A. Jesus talked about money

1. Parables often built about the subjects of money and giving.
2. He advised us not to lay up treasures on earth where moth and rust consume.
3. Warned us that we have received freely and ought to give freely.
4. He talked about the people who had different amounts of money and their different responsibilities.
5. He commended a woman for what others called waste, just because it was the outpouring of her grateful heart.
6. He declared that no one could live on possessions, no matter how many he had.

B. Abraham Tithed.

C. The New Testament concept stressed proportionate giving.

STEWARDSHIP OF THE GOSPEL

Purpose

To show the responsibility of each Christian for showing Christ to the world--his immediate world; to encourage witnessing and winning of souls.

Scripture

Psalms 142:4
I John 5:11-13
Proverbs 11:30b
I Corinthians 4:1

Appropriate Songs

"Power in the Blood"
"I Love to Tell the Story"

Presentation

It has been said that the subject of "stewardship" might be summed up in "Stewardship of the Gospel"; that God has invested all the resources within man for one purpose--to spread the Gospel. As man expends himself, the Gospel is spread.

1. Review the concept of God's investments within His children.
2. Read I Cor. 4:1
3. Outline:
 - A. Why did Jesus come?
(To give life, forgiveness of sins, salvation)
 - B. With whom did he leave the privilege of making this known?
(To His stewards. It is their business to do this.)
 - C. With what are they to do to this?
(Reread I Cor. 4:1. He gave the proper tools to use for His work--time, ability, energy, intellect, property, money.)
 1. It is the command of God that we tell others (Matt. 28:19,20).
 2. It builds the kingdom of God.
 - D. How specifically can we be good stewards of the Gospel?
 1. Living what we say we believe, so our lives are a daily witness.

2. Helping our friends who are in physical or spiritual need--in Christ's name.
3. Being able to give a reason or an explanation for our faith when others ask, or when we have opportunity to witness.

E. What basically is the Gospel?

(Give brief outline of the plan of salvation)

Appropriate verses are:

Romans 3:23
 Romans 6:23
 I John 1:12
 Rev. 3:20

4. Invite all to accept Christ. (Have necessary workers available to personally counsel with each one who responds.)
5. Refer to the Investment Folder. Under "Gospel" ask each person to write what investment he will make this week in telling others. Challenge each to mark a definite number of persons to whom he will testify, pass a tract, or try to introduce the subject of his soul's salvation.

Under "Dividends", ask the group what might come here. After their discussion, review by placing word cards #6 and #7 on the chart. Make out a third card from the suggestions which the group gives and place it in the appropriate place on the chart. Allow time for each one to write in his Investment Folder the dividends he can expect as a result of his faithfulness in getting the Gospel to others.

6. Prayer: Many will hesitate to commit themselves to witness to a certain number. Perhaps prayer is appropriate before they fill in their Investment Folders. Ask the Lord to prepare hearts which are to be approached as well as give each Christian the courage of his conviction to testify and witness.

Children's Adaptation

1. Discuss the privilege which even small children can have in telling their friends about how much Jesus loves them. Suggest to whom they might speak of this; whom they might invite to Sunday school.
2. Point out that God gave them their parents to help them learn of Jesus' love. They can show their love to Jesus by obeying.

Additional Ideas

1. Read Psalms 142:4. Lead a discussion about how a Christian shows he cares for the souls of others. Could this statement, "no man cared for my soul" be truthfully said by anyone in your community?
2. Read I Cor. 9:17. Paul speaks of a willing spirit here. "Preaching the Gospel" involves:
 - knowing it
 - believing it
 - living it
 - loving it
 - giving it

STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

Purpose

To point out the importance and value of Christian service; to show that each Christian does have a service allotted to him by Christ, and that he must faithfully serve to be a good steward; to enlist new workers.

Scripture

I Peter 4:10 (Living New Testament)
Romans 12:3-8
I Cor. 12
Ephesians 6:7,8

Appropriate Songs

"I am Happy in the Service of the King"
"Only to Be What He Wants Me To Be"

Presentation

1. Read Matt. 20:28, "The Son of man came not to be served, but to serve..."
2. Select 3 panel members to discuss the following questions:
 - a. Do you think our church should stand still, or advance in the next 6 months? Year?
 - b. Do you think the program should be based on what we think Christ wants us to do, or just what we did last year?
 - c. Is it really true that each Christian should have an avenue of Christian service? (Review Roms. 12:3-8)
3. Summarize what the panel discussed. Proceed with the following thoughts:
 - a. Jesus taught the wisdom of "counting the cost".
 - b. Jesus' work can only be carried forward by His people.
 - c. Read Romans 12:3-8 (Living New Testament). Point out that each person has a gift with which to serve. "Talent" goes beyond musical or speaking abilities; and each person possesses a certain gift. It is his responsibility before God to find out what that is, and to use it--as a good steward. Place word cards #8 and #9 on chart. Fill in the third card for the week from the group's suggestion.
4. Prepare Enlistment Sheets. (See order blank, "Local Church Plan" booklet.) Pass these to the congregation. (This might be done in the worship service, after the pastor's message on service.) Allow time for each to fill his in. Collect these right away. Do not do this step unless you plan to use the sheets to enlist people.

5. Pray. The church does not exist for itself, but for those outside itself. Its ministry is carried out by those who will commit themselves to faithful service. Pray that the Lord will reveal to each one what his gifts are and cause him to use them.
6. Refer to the Investment Folder. Under "Service" ask each person to consider what abilities God has given to him, and to write in how he will use these abilities. Ask each to be specific about his commitment. Service to Christ and his church are matters of commitment. A true perspective of stewardship puts the spirit of discipline into handling of all resources--including time, talents, money. Under "Dividends" handle this as before. Encourage each to expect the dividend promised--as a faithful steward.

Children's Adaptation

1. Discuss how children can serve the Lord. Point out specific things which they might do (helping arrange the room, being kind to friends, giving of their allowance).
2. Allow the children to participate in readying the room, presenting the lesson, cleaning up, etc. Teach them at this early age the stewardship of service.

Additional Ideas

1. Plan several mid-week service projects. Make a list of these and place this list on the bulletin board or in a conspicuous place. Call attention to this, and ask those who would participate in this type of stewardship for that week to sign their names beside the project they will undertake.
2. Prepare a skit about the "over-worked church member". Typify the person who has many jobs in the church and who is trying to do too many things. Make it humorous, but also be sure to relate the fact that if each person in the church would find his own particular position--according to the gifts God has given him--no one person would have to be "overloaded" with responsibility.
3. Poster: Picture a man with his sleeves rolled up and perspiration rolling from his brow. Caption, "Stewardship is rolling up your sleeves."
4. Develop the thought of each person finding his position. Leonard Bernstein may conduct the orchestra, but there is no music unless each musician does his part. The astronaut may walk on the moon, but each person on the space-team who is watching the controls, feeding data, etc. has done his part. All abilities are God-given. The work of the church is teamwork--each assuming his responsibility according to his ability. Training and discipline of talents are our responsibility, but each ability must be given back to God.

STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER

Purpose

To point out the necessity for prayer; to emphasize family and personal devotions; to introduce National Family Week.

Scripture

James 5:16b
Phip. 1:4-11
Eph. 3:14-19
Col. 1:4-11

Appropriate Songs

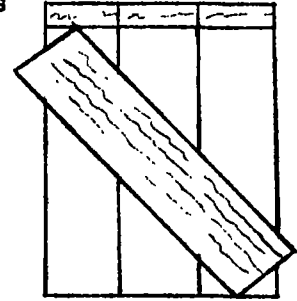
"Near to the Heart of God"
"My Jesus I Love Thee"

Presentation

In preparation for this Sunday read carefully the National Family Week program, the Family Life Kit (with its many pieces) and the suggestions for further church-home involvements. Be thoroughly acquainted with the materials which are available.

1. Ask 3 different persons to read scriptures listed above from Philipians, Ephesians and Colossians. Here are Paul's prayers for the spiritual well-being of his children in the faith. Note his heart-felt response to them and his longing for them to be mature in Christ.
2. Using a chalkboard list those things which Paul desired for his "children". Discuss the appropriateness for all children of God, and for Christian parents to have these same desires for their natural children. Ask how these attributes and signs of maturity are received. (From communion with God.)
3. Ask one or more persons who have personal and/or family devotions daily to testify as to the value of this to them and their family. (The parent might include how they can find time for family devotions.)
4. Point out that we all spend time with those we really like. Does this principle apply to spending time with God? Of course. Then we must make a time.
5. Pass out the "Family Altar Brochures". Introduce it briefly. (If your church is using the Adult Crusader suggestions, announce the program for that evening.)
6. Pass out the mimeographed schedules for the Home and Family Life Clinic, or other Family Week activities which your church is sponsoring.

7. Refer to the Investment Folder. Under "Prayer" ask each person to place the number of minutes he will invest in prayer each day that week. Under "Dividends" again ask for discussion here. What are the results of prayer? When the group has discussed this, summarize by placing on the chart word cards #10, #11, and #12. Ask each to write in the personally appropriate dividends he will expect as a result of his investment.
8. Pray. Read James 5:16b. Believe God to answer your prayer and cause each pupil to give of himself in prayer, especially this next week. Prayer is the expression of loyal faith and trust in God. He never changes.
9. Place the final word card (Matt. 25:21) over the entire poster. (See picture). These are the words each believer wishes to hear. God is anxious that these words be true of each of his children. Can it be said of all? Are we, individually, being faithful?



Children's Adaptation

1. Children need to be taught how to pray. While it may take several weeks, consider teaching the following form of prayer.
 - a. The address to God - Give Him his title (Lord, God, Father, etc.)
 - b. Praise to God - for His name, his Word, his power, his salvation
 - c. Thanksgiving to God - for life, salvation, parents, church, supply of daily needs, etc.
 - d. Petitions - to know His will and do it, to obey parents, to be faithful at home, school, play, to help others to know Him.

God always answers the prayers of His children. We must trust Him whether He says "yes" or "no". It is very important that this be clearly explained to children.

2. Even small children can pray daily. It might be for their pastor, parents or church only, but a habit is being formed. Allow for this; suggest the times when this might be done (before bedtime, first thing in the morning, etc.)

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

1. Make a prayer list of pertinent needs in your church. Distribute these for the week. Suggest that these might serve as a guide for those who have invested time in prayer.
2. Mimeograph the following for distribution among parents.

One day a townsman asked this man how he could be so patient--almost respectful, so firm and clear with standards far beyond the town and even beyond himself in the training of his children. It was his answer to this question that amazed the townsman most of all; for this is what he said: "I carry a secret that perhaps you did not know. These are not really my children. They are royal children. They are the children of a king--my king! It is my privilege to bring them up for Him. Why shouldn't I be patient? Why shouldn't I have standards for them beyond this little town? They are heirs of the Kingdom. In all they do, they must be an honor to the King."

WHAT National Family Week is sponsored each year by the National Sunday School Association to help the local church strengthen the family. The week preceding Mother's Day is the time traditionally set aside to focus on the Christian home.

The suggestions provided here are for a Home and Family Life Clinic to be held in the church during National Family Week. The purpose of a clinic is to analyze and find answers to a problem. In this case, the questions to be studied deal with the Christian home and family.

WHY The church has a definite responsibility to the home. If the Christian message is relevant anywhere, it is in the home. Yet, even Christian families sometimes find themselves bogged down in a quagmire of misunderstanding, ill-feeling, and defeat.

Too much cannot be said about the necessity of strengthening family relationships, re-defining roles, bridging any existing communication gaps, and improving the whole tone of family living.

To reach homes and meet needs, the church must have a program designed to help in the critical, problem areas families face. Too long the church has allowed people with particular family problems to come into its services and go away with those problems in mind. The Home & Family Life Clinic is designed with these problems in mind.

STEP 1 - ESTABLISH YOUR OBJECTIVES

To find ways to strengthen the home, using this special week to concentrate on the specific needs of families in the church.

To help each family find ways to make theirs a happier, more complete home.

To involve the entire family in discussion and dialogue.

To give family guidance.

STEP 2 - SET THE DATES

A four-night meeting is suggested, starting on Sunday night with the Crusader Hour. Other activities could be provided for three nights of the following week.

May be one night only, for 2 - 2½ hours.

May include a total week of meetings.

STEP 3 - PLAN THE SESSIONS

Into what categories do the members of the church fit (i.e. youth, singles, young marrieds, parents, retired adults, etc.)? What you do will be determined to a great extent by the needs these groups represent.

List the categories you want to plan for. This will determine the number of sessions which will be held each night. State the approximate number you expect to attend each session; the number which might be included in each category.

After determining the number and approximate size of the sessions, evaluate and determine the needs of each group of people. List the topics to be covered for each one. You may choose a different topic each night or consider various aspects of one broad topic.

Decide how these sessions will be conducted, whether through lecture, films, panels, discussion, etc.

STEP 4 - DETERMINE THE PERSONNEL

Decide the type of leader needed for each session. Choose one person to lead each group for each evening. Continuity can better be achieved if the same person conducts the session each night.

Contact the individuals you wish to lead the sessions, giving them the purpose of the clinic and of the particular session they are to conduct, along with details such as date, time, place, number of people to expect, and length of the sessions.

If you have a guest from outside the church to lead a session, appoint someone from the group to be host to this individual. Introduce him to others and to the group at the beginning of the session. This appointed person may also be responsible for setting up the room, preparing equipment, etc.

STEP 5 - SET UP THE SCHEDULE

This is National Family Week. Make up a detailed schedule for the entire week, showing what will take place each night.

Decide the starting and closing time. Plan the number of sessions each night and how long these will be. If refreshments or a general time with everyone together is to be part of the evening's activities, decide when this will take place.

STEP 6 - PUBLICIZE THE EVENT

For several weeks announce the special activities of the week through church bulletins, mailings, pulpit announcements, and poster. Make up a program, listing the sessions and speakers, to be handed out in advance for advertisement.

Send invitations to everyone on the church mailing list.

Appoint a telephone committee to make calls inviting families to attend.

Send a news release to the local newspaper. Publicize this as a community-wide service.

Enthusiasm and word-of-mouth contacts will be your most effective publicity.

STEP 7 - HAVE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Determine what equipment is needed in the various sessions. Make a list of what is needed, and when. Appoint someone to see that these are in the proper place at the right time.

Be aware of the needs for such things as: chalkboard, easels, projector and screen, tables, pencils and paper, bulletin boards, display areas, and chairs.

Secure sufficient "Family Life Kits" to be used (See order blank).

For a successful Home and Family Life Clinic, it is important that the programming be geared to specific needs. Choose carefully the subject matter and the leaders. Consider which of the following categories and topics may fit your needs.

POSSIBLE CATEGORIES & TOPICS

Teens

Understanding myself
Handling life's temptations
How to talk to my parents
Getting along with brothers & sisters
What the Bible says about sex,
marriage, and my life

Newly Weds

Foundations for a happy marriage
Handling money matters
Making sexual adjustments
Planning for the future

Retired or Senior Citizens

Temptations & problems of senior years
How to prepare for the years of maturity
Making the senior years fruitful
When death takes a mate

Single Adults

Understanding God's will for my life
Divorce and re-marriage
Social & personality adjustments of the single person
Facing loneliness
My money & me
Christian psychology

Parents

(Parents of Teens/Parents of children)

Training & discipline in the Christian home
Understanding & guiding children/youth
Does your family communicate?
Parental responsibility
Making ends meet (Family financing)
When two disagree (Solving family differences)
What makes a home Christian

Children

Bible Story Hour
Guided play and activity period
Role play of family situations

SCHEDULE - HOME & FAMILY LIFE CLINIC

Sunday

Sunday School - Worship period emphasizes faithfulness in family prayer (See section under Stewardship Program, page 19).

Crusader Hour - Combined or separate youth & adult groups with a discussion and demonstration of how to have a family altar. Use the brochure, "The Family Altar", as the basis (contained in the Home Life Kit).

Monday

7:00 - 8:30 Session #1
Each one attends the session designed for his needs.

8:30 - 9:00 Family Fellowship
Refreshments & brief time for group singing, presentation by the youth or children's choir, a skit, etc.

Tuesday

7:00 - 8:30 Session #2

8:30 - 9:00 Family Fellowship

Wednesday

6:00 - 7:00 Family Potluck

7:00 - 8:00 Session #3

8:00 - 9:00 General Session & Family Prayer Meeting

Thursday

Home Night - Encourage the families to spend the evening at home together in planned activities. Suggest what they might do: play table games, put a puzzle together, make fudge or pop-corn, read aloud a story and discuss it, watch one t.v. program and discuss it, talk to each other, have family worship, and pray together.

Friday

Free - An evening to take care of shopping, banking, laundry, cleaning, etc., might be appreciated by the families of the church. Encourage participation of the entire family in these activities.

OR

Family
Recreation
Night

Plan a night at the church or park for fun and relaxation. Have some team sports such as volleyball, softball, forming father-son (or mother-daughter) teams, or playing youth against adults. Include other games such as ping pong, badminton, table games, horseshoes, shuffle board.

Have each family pay a visit to an unchurched or prospective family either on the way to the church or on the way home.

Saturday

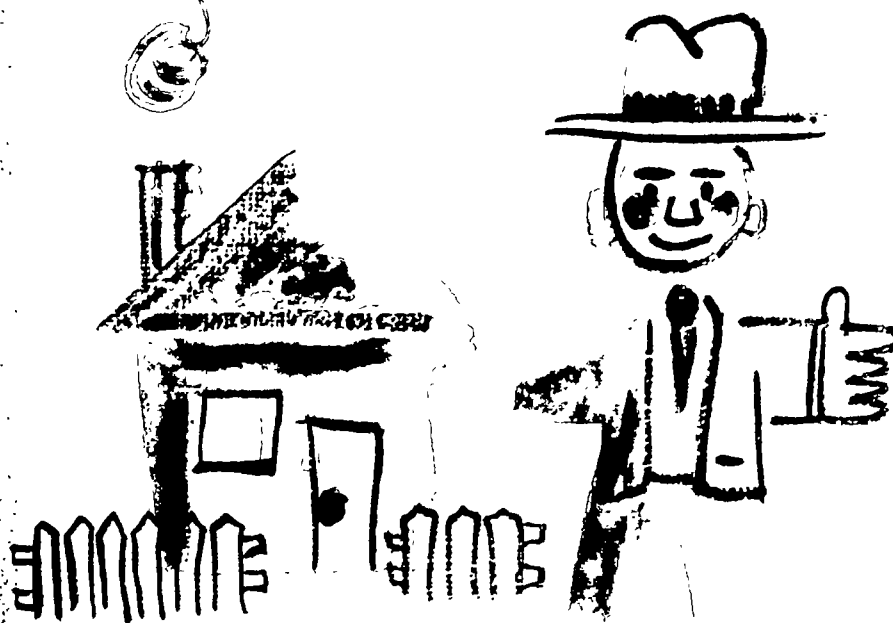
Free

OR

Mother-Daughter
Mother-Son
Event

Since Sunday is Mother's Day, an occasion to honor mothers would be appropriate. Plan a more formal event, such as a dinner or banquet at a nearby restaurant, or have the young people sponsor a program at the church. Mothers would enjoy light refreshments and an appropriate musical program.

FAMILY LIFE KIT



"As for me and my house,
we will serve the Lord."
Joshua 24:15

SEEK

SEEK, the Daily Devotional Guide that keeps you in one book of the Bible at a time.

You'll find SEEK an interesting and helpful way to become more familiar with entire books of the Bible. Thousands have found it to be ideal for private devotions and family altar. Each day's readings consist of consecutive Scripture passages. Out of years of experience as Bible teachers come inspirational and devotional comments thoughtfully and prayerfully written by evangelical Christian leaders.

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You can have SEEK for yourself for about 2c a week!

Christian CONCERN REPORT

for the month of _____

Family (or families) we are seeking to win:

Name

Address

Name

Address

**Check
concern
activities
for the
month**



Prayed for at family altar

Called in their home

Witnessed to them

Invited to our home

Shared in our family altar

Contacted by telephone

Invited to Sunday school

Invited to weekday class meeting

Invited to church service

Invited to revival meeting

Mailed church periodicals or advertising

Other _____

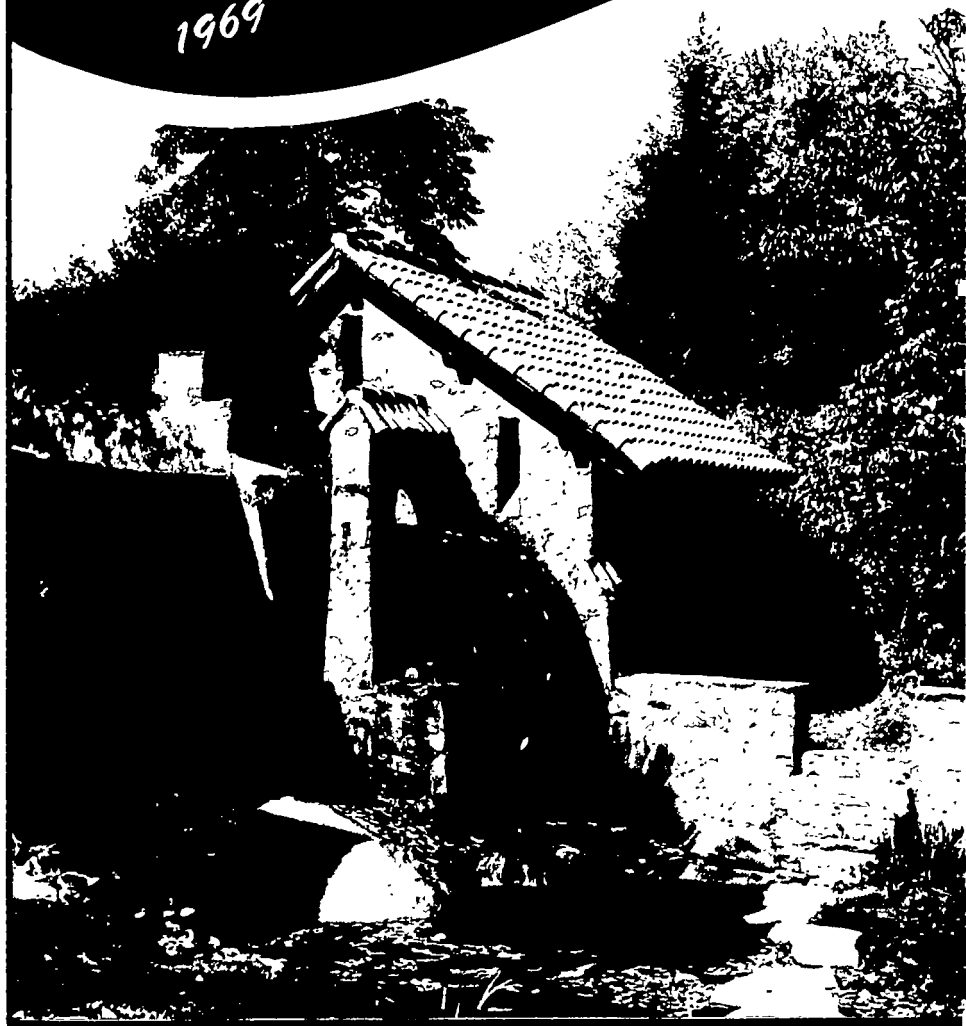
Encouraging results to date _____

Signed _____

SEEK

Your

1969





IDEAS

**FOR
GOING**

*to reach new
families . . .*

"Go ye therefore . . ." (Matthew 28:11).

The last will and testament of our Lord and Saviour was, "Go ye therefore . . ." The "go" is to go with the good news that must be spread. We are His people, His messengers. The "ye" is you and me. The "therefore" refers to His promise to be with us and give us the power that has been given Him. That power comes to us in tarrying and displays itself in our going. He promises to be with us as we go.



EARLY CHURCH FAMILIES

Family evangelism was practiced in the Early Church. In the Book of Acts we read:

2:46 "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and *breaking bread from house to house*, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart."

5:42 "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

20:20 "And how I [Paul] kept back nothing that was profitable unto you [Ephesians],

but have shewed you, and have *taught you publickly*, and from *house to house*."

GOING AS A FAMILY

Our Lord's commission will be carried out to-day largely in our tarrying as a family and going as individuals. A family will discuss together the family they want to win. They will plan together the things they can do as a family to reach that family. These may include:

1. Praying for them during family worship
2. Inviting them for an evening in the home
3. Involving them in our family worship
4. Mailing them church periodicals and advertising
5. Inviting them to church
6. Inviting them to Sunday dinner after church
7. Asking them to a family night at the church
8. Showing special interest in case of illness, accident, or death

GOING AS INDIVIDUALS

Much of our contact from family to family will be through the individual members. Contacts may include:

1. Calling them on the telephone
2. Going to see them

3. Inviting them to stay all night (especially older children and teen-agers)
4. Inviting them to attend a weekday class meeting
5. Getting other members of the Sunday school class to call on them
6. Getting them to be our guests on a special night at a revival
7. Getting together for some recreational activity
8. Asking them to help with a hobby of mutual interest
9. Remembering special anniversaries and birthdays

CHRISTIAN CONCERN REPORT

We work best when we are expected to give an account of our stewardship. The Christian Concern Report form is provided for this purpose. One is to be completed and turned in to the local church director of Christian Family Life once each month. This will help you to carry out your Christian Concern Commitment.

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A distinguished pediatrician offers some practical guidelines to help you improve mankind's most important product

How to Be a Better Parent

Condensed from "CHILD SENSE"

WILLIAM E. HOMAN, M.D.

NO OTHER task in the world is so complicated and challenging as that of raising children. Yet a career spent with youngsters and their problems has led me to this haunting conclusion: each set of new parents approaches the formidable assignment of raising humans with the least imaginable training and preparation. For the relatively simple roles of doctor, lawyer, pilot, plumber, it is taken for granted that years of preparation will be necessary to attain even mediocrity. But one is apparently assumed to come to the job of being a parent divinely endowed with knowledge and experience. And when we stumble along the path, and the resulting product is less than

perfect, the world feels free to point an accusing finger at us.

How, then, does the perplexed parent avoid stumbling? What guidelines will help make him a *good* parent?

To me, the good parent is simply one who *more than half the time* does the right thing instead of the wrong. He knows that thousands of factors contribute to and shape the final personality of a growing human being. But he realizes that in the long run only three basic needs are absolutely essential: love, discipline, independence.

Love. Of the three fundamental requirements, the first—love—is the most important. And it is unique in that there can never be too much.

An excess of discipline, or too much independence, can be harmful. But of love, the more the merrier.

The type of love a child needs is the kind that says, "I love you, Joe, not for what you do or don't do, but just because you're you." This is the uncritical kind of love that builds self-confidence, creates a strong self-image, leads to a willingness to try without fear of the consequences of failing. There is no doubt that most parents feel this sort of affection for their children, but don't know how to express it effectively. Three precepts may prove helpful:

- *Disapprove of what a child does, not of who he is.* There is no inconsistency in paddling a child for misbehavior, and then putting your arms around him and telling him what a fine boy he is and how much you love him. Indeed, you bother to discipline only because you love—a concept that children readily perceive.

- *Praise a child more for being than for doing.* Parents generally react favorably to a good report card or to a thoughtful act on a child's part. This is all well and good—as long as these accomplishments are not the child's major or sole source of praise and love. In fact, a child should receive a greater share of cuddling or praise when he is producing nothing, is daydreaming, or

in fact has recently done something that had to be criticized.

- *Communicate your love.* It is not enough to feel love; you must make the recipient aware of your feeling. This can be done by a thousand little acts and gestures:

Tucking a child into bed at night, while forbearing to review his misdeeds of the day.

Offering a comforting arm or a lap even though he's not hurt badly.

Being visibly proud of him when he has given you no earthly reason even to admit that he's yours.

Perhaps the most elegant way of all to communicate your love is to praise a child out loud to strangers, to relatives, to your mate, in the child's presence.

Discipline. Discipline is important simply because we live in an organized society where, if you have not learned life's requirements at an early age, you will be taught them later, not by those whose love tempers the lesson but by strangers who couldn't care less about the harm they do to your personality.

"Discipline" and "punishment" are not synonymous. Punishment suggests hurting, paying someone back for a wrong committed. Discipline implies an action directed toward a goal. You discipline with the intention of helping the recipient to improve himself.

The basic rules of discipline apply equally to any teaching situation:

- *Establish authority.* The first step in the discipline of a child must be the lesson that his parents are cor-

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rect, and are to be trusted and obeyed at all times.

Now, don't panic, Mom and Dad. Though you may know very well that you are not absolute authorities, you must assume the *disguise* of authority. Here is the key: an authority is only a fellow who knows more about a subject than the person he is addressing. Therefore, until the pupil's confidence in the discipliner is established, the subject must always be chosen so that the teacher can prove his point if challenged. The child is not scolded, not reasoned with, not nagged, not punished. He is simply *made* to comply! The spoken command coincides with physical enforcement. The creeper headed for the lamp cord is called back only as he is being bodily carried back. The toddler is summoned to lunch only as his mother grasps his hand and leads him to the table.

Thus, by concentrating early discipline on lessons which can be promptly backed up by physical means, the parent begins to establish infallibility as an authority. And the converse must also be observed: Avoid disciplining in matters which you cannot enforce. For example, it is unwise to instruct a young child to "Eat your food," "Go to sleep," "Stop that crying," because you cannot possibly enforce the lesson.

• *Be consistent.* Unpredictable discipline on the part of a single parent, or inconsistency between parents, produces a sense of confusion and panic within the child, so that he ultimately says, "The heck with

it," and gives up trying to follow *any* teaching. Thus parents who constantly disagree about how to teach their children had best compromise their differences—or match their child's college fund with a child-psychiatrist fund. The same is true of "well-meaning" outside persons—grandparents, older siblings, servants—who are equally capable of disrupting discipline. Parents must decide early whether their first allegiance is to the child or to the outsider, however closely related.

• *Criticize the act, not the child.* There is a mountain of difference between "You are a bad boy for kicking me in the shins," and "Kicking in the shins is bad, and I won't tolerate it." If this seems like hairsplitting, let me emphasize that this difference represents one of the major mistakes that parents make in raising children. It is relatively harmless to attack another person's actions; after all, these he can always learn to change. But it is disastrous to attack his self-esteem.

• *Don't explain or bribe.* Much nonsense has gone into the myth that one should explain to a child as one disciplines. The familiar refrain—"Anita, come in for dinner." "Why?" "Because I say so."—may seem hard for the child to accept. But—"Anita, come in for dinner." "Why?" "Because I want to get dinner over with and go to a show."—is terrifying. It thrusts upon Anita the burden of deciding whether it is more important to play or to consider the happiness of her mother.

And she does not yet have the knowledge to make a valid decision. Such "explanations" should come only after Anita has long since mastered the fact that when Mother calls her, she had better come.

Bribery is equally dangerous. When you say, "Bob, I am proud of the way you behaved in front of Aunt Agatha today," you are rewarding Bob. When you say, "Bob, if you behave well in front of Aunt Agatha today, I'll be proud of you," you are offering a bribe. The first is legitimate; the latter, destructive. For a bribe, like an explanation, thrusts upon the child the necessity of choosing.

Independence. The third factor indispensable to the development of the normal personality is the emergence of independence. The nature of independence is such that:

- *It cannot be forced.* A child will automatically learn to make decisions on his own when he is ready, provided that the opportunity to do so is not kept from him. It is not possible to push him into acting independently before he feels ready without making him fearful of the consequences, desirous of clinging to the nest. Thus, an infant will feed himself when he is capable of doing so, if given the opportunity, and not because he is urged or forced.

- *It should not be smothered.* Its emergence should be tolerated in all permissible forms. Minor hurts, physical and mental, are pretty

much essential to the development of independence. The toddler must stumble and fall a number of times before he masters walking. The first-grader must suffer the scorn of his colleagues when he chooses to dress inappropriately for school.

- *In an area that would result in permanent, serious harm to the child, it must be prohibited.* Allowing a child to make decisions of thought or action *before* he is capable of understanding the consequences, if the consequences could be dangerous, is not realistic. For example, the need for the development of independence should not lead to the toddler falling down the cellar stairs. Perhaps the best way to put it is that the child should be permitted to make minor errors of judgment—but not allowed to exterminate himself.

So there it is: the triad of requirements necessary for the development of emotional health. Give away your love to your children, and you will receive back more love than you can encompass. Discipline your children to recognize reality, and in the doing you will enrich your own understanding. Welcome their evolving independence, and you will be supported by the strength you have helped them attain.

Reprints of this article are available. Prices, postpaid to one address: 10—50¢; 50—\$2; 100—\$3.50; 500—\$12.50; 1000—\$18. Address Reprint Editor, The Reader's Digest, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570

NOT LONG ago, at a luncheon I attended, someone cited the bleak U.S. divorce statistics—one divorce for every four marriages. A Californian shook his head. "In my state," he said grimly, "the rate is now one out of two." That jolted me! What the situation means in emotional wreckage and financial distress, in hardship worked on children, staggers the imagination. I've been haunted by it ever since.

Certainly some of us work to reverse the trend. Ministers try; psychiatrists, marriage counselors, social workers try. But all too often, by the time we're called in, the fatal damage has been done. The forces of sickness have already become stronger than the forces of health. And so the marriage dies.

Is there any remedy that can be applied early in the disease to save the marriage? I think perhaps there is. Most families keep some sort of medical kit available for emergencies. Why not add to this a *psychological* first-aid kit that marriage partners can use to doctor the emotional cuts and bruises that are inevitable when two entirely different personalities merge their lives? Most

Needed: A First-Aid Kit for Marriage

A noted minister prescribes some remedies for the emotional sprains, cuts and bruises that are inevitable when a man and a woman merge their lives

BY NORMAN VINCENT PEALE, D.D.
*Minister, Marble Collegiate Church,
New York City*

disruptive elements in marriage are small at first; they call for a Band-Aid, not major surgery. It's only when the small wounds are ignored, neglected, left to fester, that real trouble sets in.

What should such a first-aid kit for marriage contain? Over the years, counseling hundreds of peo-

ple with marital problems, I have found some useful devices and remedies. Here are ten: three diagnostic questions that troubled couples should ask themselves; three practical techniques for treating minor marital abrasions; and four common-sense prescriptions for keeping any marriage healthy.

The three questions are designed primarily for people who have no glaring marital difficulties, but nevertheless feel that things are not going as well as they should, that the glow of romance is fading, that quarrels are becoming too frequent.

• **Have I reached the state of being truly in love?** A wise man said that love is the accurate estimate and supply of another's need. But no one learns this overnight. Most of us start out in marriage as consumers of love, not suppliers. Being truly in love is a goal to be attained rather than a built-in actuality. If we occasionally remind ourselves of this, mistakes and setbacks won't seem so discouraging.

• **Am I guilty of too-great expectations?** We Americans have so sentimentalized marriage that a lot of us expect constant bliss—and sulk when we don't get it. Recently, in my office, a woman compiled an astonishing list of complaints about her husband. Finally I said, "Young lady, you have made a grave mistake. You married a man instead of an archangel!"

"I just want him to meet me halfway," she said defiantly. "Marriage is a 50-50 proposition, isn't it?"

"No," I said, "not really. In some areas you have to give 70 percent to get back 30. In others you may be able to give only 20 percent, which means that your partner must supply 80. Stop demanding miracles of your husband, and start trying to make him happy. You'll be amazed at how much of that happiness comes flooding back to you."

• **Have I stopped listening?** Time and again one partner has valid grievances, but the other is too busy voicing complaints of his own to listen. Now, a marriage without communication cannot survive. Yet all that's needed, usually, is some indication, however slight, that the other person's point of view is getting through.

Once, after listening to an embattled pair, I took the husband out of the room and extracted from him the reluctant promise that when we returned to his wife, he would pronounce a certain phrase every time I nodded my head. When the wife hurled her first accusation, I nodded sympathetically. "You may be right," the husband said.

Startled, his wife fired another broadside. Once more I nodded. "You may be right," the husband repeated doggedly. When he made this unheard-of remark for the third time, his wife glared at him. "What's the matter with you?" she demanded. I felt like congratulating her—she was listening to her husband instead of shouting at him. From that point on, we began to make some progress.

THESE questions are often useful in pinpointing the underlying *causes* of marital friction. Now here are some practical techniques to deal with the friction.

- **Put yourself in your partner's shoes.** This requires imagination, and can be done best when you are alone—driving home from work, perhaps, or sitting under the hair drier. Ask your assumed self what it would take to soothe the irritations of your daily living. Quite often it would take only some unexpected little kindness: a word of praise, a small gift, a loving note.

- **Offer to compromise.** Compromise simply means that you are mature enough to recognize that there are two sides to every question. A psychologist and marriage counselor in Honolulu, Dr. Raymond J. Corsini, has worked out a "contract approach" that dramatizes this need for give-and-take. He asks dissatisfied mates to write down their complaints about each other, then selects one from each list. The couple enter into a contract: he'll stop snapping at the children, and she'll cut down her smoking. At the end of a week, if the bargain has held, Dr. Corsini asks the partners to agree to two new compromises. Gradually, he eases himself out of the picture, recommending that the couple try to make similar compromise contracts on touchy subjects *before* they begin to battle about them.

- **Express affection and appreciation.** Day in and day out, this is the most effective technique for smooth-

ing the rough edges of marriage. *All* of us need praise; when we get it, we tend to live up to it. One of the most subtle and powerful forces in human nature is our tendency to become what other people think we are. That's why we never lose our hunger for affection, which is nothing but the recognition of our best traits by other people.

FINALLY, I recommend four all-purpose marriage capsules, to be taken regularly.

- **Work together.** Work is one of the greatest healing forces known to man, although many couples seem unaware of this. The husband works at his job, the wife works in the home, but they rarely join skills in a common objective. How marvelously satisfying shared work can be! It banishes gloom and boredom, takes our minds off ourselves.

I know a young couple who go once a week as volunteers to a mental hospital and conduct classes in drawing and painting for the patients. Another couple specialize in helping to organize small religious groups. There are dozens of things to do together. Paint a room. Start a garden. Wash the car. Anything, so long as there's common effort and common achievement—the adhesive that makes a marriage stick.

- **Play together.** It's curious how often people seem to feel guilty about enjoying themselves, how they invent all sorts of excuses to avoid the innocent pursuit of pleasure. "Oh, I can't leave the children,"

a housewife will tell me when I urge her to do more things with her husband. "But I'm not the athletic type," a husband will growl when I point out that shared physical exertion really does draw people closer together. Perhaps he's not, but because of this attitude he may never know what fun it is to tramp a windy beach or snowy field and then relax by a fire with someone he loves. Even after you've found areas of mutual enjoyment, keep looking for more. The more you have, the happier you are likely to be.

• **Pray together.** This sounds like standard preacher's advice, but don't dismiss it too easily. I can't guarantee that every family that prays together stays together. But I *can* tell you that in all my years of counseling I have never encountered a couple in serious difficulty who *were* praying together. Nor have I ever known a couple who, once they had agreed to pray together, and stuck to it, wound up by getting a divorce.

Praying together restores balance in a marriage, because it recognizes that both partners are loved equally by God. Furthermore, bringing a disagreement before the bar of Ultimate Justice removes it, somehow, from human bitterness. People change their tone of voice; it becomes impossible to rant, or even to remain very argumentative.

For people too self-conscious to pray aloud I recommend sitting quietly and holding in mind the words, "Be still, and know that I am God." In the face of that majes-

tic command, human quarrels seem very small indeed.

• **Sleep together.** This final recommendation needs no elaboration. But I am not talking about sex alone. Even without sex, physical closeness has a magic all its own. Reaching for a hand in the darkness is perhaps the best of all ways to end a quarrel, offer a silent apology, make amends. I think every marital first-aid kit should be large enough to contain a double bed.

MAKING a go of marriage is, at times, hard work. But it is the most exciting and rewarding work in the world. If happy marriages were handed to us on a silver platter, calm and smooth and predictable, what a bore that would be!

It all reminds me of the story my minister-father used to tell about the man who dreamed that he came to the great storehouse where God keeps the marvelous gifts He bestows on mankind. The man said to the angel in charge, "I'm so tired of the miseries of life on earth! Instead of wars and afflictions, lusts and lies, we need love and joy, peace and justice. Please give me some of these things." The angel smiled and answered, "We don't stock fruits—only seeds."

That's the way it is with every worthwhile thing in life. Marriage is no different.

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THE
FAMILY ALTAR

“Oh, I wonder what Jesus is going to be doing today?”

Thus the excitement of a 6-year old child as her Daddy took down the modern translation of the Bible for their daily family devotions. To her, the Bible was alive, it was exciting – and while she did not realize it, it was shaping her life.

Is this repeated in your home – in your heart?

We are thankful for the agencies which are present in our society, and realize that each has an important part to play. Our society needs *government*; without it confusion and chaos would result. We need the *school*. Here we learn about the world and its people, and develop the minds which God has given us. Christ has established the *church* for evangelism, worship, fellowship and Christian education. But governments, schools, and churches are all dependent upon homes and the families who live there. It is the basic unit of human society, and the first institution which God established (Genesis 2:24).

The divine plan has not changed, for today God continues to focus attention upon the home as the center for Christian learning. We see examples of Christian homes in the lives of Christian youth and children – homes where the Word is honored, taught and lived. We also see children learning from another example to be inconsistent, uncommitted and uninterested in the things of God. The potential for dedicated Christianity exists in the lives of all children; the development of this rests with the parent.

The kind of homes of which our society is made will determine the kind of government, schools, even churches which will exist in this society. A truly Christian home is Christ-centered and Christ-honoring. And a Christ-honoring home will be a home with family altar – a regular time when the family worships together.

Why is family altar important?

1. It helps dissolve misunderstanding and relieves friction.
2. It sometimes determines the salvation of the children.
3. It serves as an example and stimulus for other homes; especially those of the next generation which are trained in such an environment.
4. It unifies the family.
5. It strengthens the life of the individual.
6. It symbolizes the presence of God in the home.
7. It provides a sense of security.

THE ELEMENTS OF THE FAMILY ALTAR

There are several elements which should be present at family altar time. While these are many and will vary from time to time, each family should carefully consider and prepare for the daily time together. Methods will differ because family units differ. The individual family, perhaps by trial and error, but always with the leading of the Lord, can arrive at the methods best suited for its family.

What are some of these elements?

1. *Bible.* Each member of the family should have his own Bible. Even the young child who is not able to read can "follow" in his own New Testament. While the means of including it will not always be the same, some portion of the Scriptures should always be present in family altar. Some of these might be:
 - a. *Reading the Scriptures together.* This may be in unison, or with each member reading a few verses. One of the fine modern-language translations is profitable, especially with younger family members.
 - b. *Recorded Bible stories.* Many fine records which dramatically present the Bible stories are available for children and teens. While it is not advised that these should always be used, they do add variety occasionally.
 - c. *Drama.* Let the family members take turns preparing and dramatizing a Bible story for the others to guess. When the story has been guessed, then read the Scripture portion which covers this dramatization.
 - d. *Quoted verses.* If devotions are held at meal time, some Bible verses may be included to begin the meal, such as quoting favorite or newly-memorized verses, or cards from the "Promise Box."
2. *Prayer.* Prayer is "talking to God", and it includes praise and thanksgiving as well as petition. Everyone should on occasion have opportunity to pray. Adults must not become impatient with children. Special problems or questions should be discussed and prayer made in their behalf. Testimonies to answered prayer should be stated, and thanks presented for them.
3. *Scripture memorization.* Most children have "key verses" or "golden texts" for memorization in their Sunday school lesson books. These may be used for family altar and the family can learn them together. When there are several children in the family, verses may be learned during the course of the week. Verse packets can also be used.
4. *Bible story books.* Fine Bible story books, or Bible-related stories are plentiful. Children delight in these stories, and they are especially meaningful when the story book and the Bible are used together.

Bible-related stories usually present a modern-day story with a moral. Discuss the meaning of this story with the family, and draw conclusions according to the teaching of the Scriptures. What does the *Bible* say?

5. *Discussion.* Let each family member discuss freely the problem of importance to them, or any questions about which they are concerned. Endeavor to establish a good atmosphere where each one will feel sure his particular need can be presented.
6. *Visual aids.* Pictures, models, maps, etc. can be used to make the family altar more meaningful. Here again they need not be pictures or models from the Bible, but may be pictures from current magazines which illustrate the Bible truth being taught.
7. *Other miscellaneous suggestions:*
 - a. *Quizzes.* Short quizzes can be used for variety, too. A few questions about the Scripture portion read stimulate the thinking as well as let the parent know how much the child understands of what is being read.
 - b. *Music.* A hymn or chorus of devotion or praise may well be included in the family altar time. When a musical instrument is available it may be used, or recorded music played. All members can participate in this phase. One may wish to use a certain song as a "call to worship." When this song is heard, the family immediately knows that it is family altar time. Occasionally background music can be played throughout the devotional time.
 - c. *Bible games.* These are many and varied, too. Here again, one must be careful not to use these to the exclusion of all Bible reading.

THE TIME FOR THE FAMILY ALTAR

What is the best time for family altar? Each family must select the most convenient hour for its own family altar. But *unless a specific time is designated and adhered to, it seems one never finds it opportune.* Experiment to secure the best hour for the family. You may find that after a certain length of time, you will have to adjust to a new schedule.

What are some of the best times?

1. *At meal time.* Usually every member of the family is present at one meal during the day. Make this the time for family altar. When it is possible, breakfast hour is best. To be able to begin the day with prayer together is an excellent start for the hours ahead.
2. *In the evening.* If members of the family retire at about the same time, right before bedtime may be best. Immediately after the evening meal, before the family scatters, is a good time as well.
3. *When miles separate members of the family.* If a definite time each day is established for family altar, members of the family who are away from the home can unite together with the family

at this time. This may include children away at college, service men, a father away on business, or children in camp or visiting friends. When a designated book or Bible-reading pattern is set up, the absent member may also use the same material. Nothing will unite the family as a united prayertime.

4. *When guests are present.* Family altar should be conducted even though there are guests present in the home. This should be the "normal way" for Christian homes, and to excuse yourself to the guest minimizes this natural function. Instead, invite them to join you. Children are being taught to feel the presence of God in your home. Let us do nothing to discourage this.
5. *When the family cannot all be together.* There may be times when the entire family is not together every day. When this happens, one parent should assume the responsibility of conducting the family altar with the children. Those days during the week when the family is all together can and should be even more meaningful.

A family should not become discouraged when it misses a day or two of family altar. Begin again. Perhaps a different time will have to be established. Keep at it.

How long should the family devotion period be each day?

Again this may vary from day to day, but be certain that it is not a long, unmeaningful time when the parent finds occasion to preach to the children.

Generally the family altar should conclude after 10 or 15 minutes. However, at times when discussion is generated and questions arise, this period may stretch to even 25 or 30 minutes.

Parents must be sensitive about the younger members of the family and plan the altar time accordingly. While these members must learn respect for the family altar hour, they must also grow up with a positive attitude towards it.

AID FOR THE FAMILY ALTAR

Following are several suggested tools which can help you carry out your family altar.

1. *Devotional books and magazines.* Booklets with a verse and comment for each day, as well as questions and thoughts for discussion. Bible bookstores have fine books which may be purchased to guide you.
2. *Bible story books.* These have been previously mentioned. Parents want to take note of authors and publishing houses, making certain they are evangelical. (See suggestions on last page.)
3. *Sunday school lesson books.* Including these in the family altar helps the child integrate the home and the church, and gives meaning to the book as well.
4. *Sermon topics.* Truths brought by the pastor may provide discussion for family altar time, thus helping the members "live out" the truth.

5. *Special themes.* Special church days (Christmas, Easter, etc.) may be observed. Bible references about these may be read and discussed. *Missionary themes* may be used. The family might "adopt" a missionary family to pray for during the week or month. Pictures of the missionaries may be found in the Foursquare World ADVANCE and will help to acquaint the family at home with the missionary.
6. A *prayer calendar* may be set up, when each day specific requests are remembered. When answers to prayer are realized, these are crossed off and others added. This calendar needs to be kept current to be effective. Encourage members of the family to add their own requests as well.
7. *Suggested outline.* While no one can set up an outline for another family, suggestions may be made as to how this might be done. For example:

Bible Reading	3 min.
Discussion of Bible portion read	3 min.
Prayer (including requests)	3 min.
Music	1 min.
Total	
10 min.	

The Scriptures should have a vital place in every family altar.

The Bible admonishes parents to bring up their children in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord". This includes discipline and instruction. Even when one parent is not a Christian, the responsibility must not be shunned. It has been said, "*You are what your children are becoming*". The demands of the society today make us realize even more the necessity of the firm and secure foundation of the Christ-centered home — the one where the Bible is regularly honored by the entire family.

"Every child has the right to a Christian home."

Suggested Family Altar Resources

- **"It Didn't Just Happen"*, by Ethel Barrett, Regal Books. A read-aloud book with Bible stories written to be read.
- **"The Living Story of Jesus"*, by Kenneth Taylor, Regal Books. Using the *Living New Testament* as its basis, the four Gospels are combined into a single vivid narrative in historical sequence. Jesus, speaking the language of today, just as He would speak if He walked among us now.
- **"Seek"*, Good News Publishers, Westchester, Illinois. A quarterly publication including verses and comments for each day. Designed for family devotions.
- *Available from Foursquare Publications.

FOURSQUARE PUBLICATIONS
1100 Glendale Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90026

The following inventory may be used during the Crusader Hour to kick-off the Family Week emphasis. Let each individual rate his own home, then discuss together the points under worship, study, and service. Point out the importance of each to a healthy, Christian home.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY INVENTORY

This check list may suggest ways of strengthening your family's spiritual life.

Worship

- | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
|--|------------|-----------|
| 1. We have grace at mealtime. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. We conduct family devotions each day. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. We attend morning worship. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. We attend evening worship. | _____ | _____ |
| 5. We are usually on time. | _____ | _____ |
| 6. We bring our Bibles. | _____ | _____ |
| 7. We give tithes and offerings regularly. | _____ | _____ |
| 8. We encourage our children to give of their own money. | _____ | _____ |

Study

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| 9. We attend Sunday school regularly. | _____ | _____ |
| 10. We prepare our lesson each week. | _____ | _____ |
| 11. We attend mid-week prayer and Bible study regularly. | _____ | _____ |
| 12. We encourage our children to have a daily quiet time, and set the example of personal devotions. | _____ | _____ |

Service

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| 13. We invite others to attend church. | _____ | _____ |
| 14. We make phone and personal calls of invitation. | _____ | _____ |
| 15. We witness and invite others in other ways. | _____ | _____ |
| 16. We frequently become involved in helping someone in need, even if they do not attend our church. | _____ | _____ |

1. Attendance Booster. As a means for outreach and to get the family to work together, honor the Mother whose family brings the most to Sunday school that week. These brought do not have to be just members of her own family, but can be anyone who comes at her invitation, or at the invitation of her family. Give a certain number of points for each visitor who comes. You may wish to give different numbers of points for each "type" of visitor. For example.

- 3 points - persons who have never attended before
- 2 points - each absentee who returns (define "absentee" as a person who has been absent a certain number of Sundays.)

Make available names, addresses and phone numbers of projects, absentees, etc. and allow certain points for each contact made (1 point for phone call; 3 points for home call, etc.)

The mother with the greatest total points is honored as the "Mother of the Day". As an award, present the family with a family portrait, dinner at a local restaurant, book of family altar suggestions, etc.

2. Mother of the Year By secret ballot ask each person to vote for the mother they feel should be honored as the "Mother of the Year". She should be chosen because of her Christian Life, faithfulness, contribution to the church and to her own family. Vote for several weeks prior to Mother's Day. Announce the winner and honor this mother on "her" day.
3. Portraits of Mother. Prepare a large picture frame -- large enough for actual life-size scenes to be posed behind it. Arrange a suitable background for this. Portray the many facets of mothers. Some of the following might be used.

- Mother praying (kneeling beside a chair)
- Mother reading the Scripture (in rocking chair) with her Bible. She, or someone else might read aloud the Scripture, such as I Samuel 2:1, 2, 8, 18, and 19.
- Mother serving (sewing, cooking, sweeping, etc.)

With each scene, use a short narration of the ministries of Christian mothers in each of these areas. Testimonies from either mothers (as to why they are willing to do these things) or from their children (in appreciation for mother's help) could be used as well. The last scene might be portrayed by the Mother of the Year, and the announcement be made at this time. If this is done, a family portrait in this frame might serve as a gift for this mother.

4. Honor all Mothers. Teach the children the words to the following Mother's Day song. On Mother's Day, have the children sing this to all mothers, as they stand.

Tune: "Jesus Loves Me"

Chorus:

Mothers love us this we know,
Yes, their love for us they show
Children love their mothers, too,
I love mine, and so do you.

Yes, mothers love us
(repeat 3 times)
Their love for us they show.

If flowers or some other momenta are given to mothers, have the children pass them out at this time.

5. Have each family "adcpt" a mother for this day. These might be women from your church, or elderly women alone in a rest home, etc. Invite them to dinner, send an appropriate card or in some way brighten the day of this lonely one.
6. Decorate God's house by having a plant sent to the church in the name of mothers being honored. Perhaps families in the church would wish to do this.
7. Tributes to mother. On the Sunday before Mother's Day pass out 5x7 cards, numbered at the top. Tell each child he can earn an orchid (or other appropriate award) for his mother by finishing this sentence: "I think my mom is the greatest mother because ...". Each is asked to write not more than one paragraph. Allow only 5-7 minutes for this. To identify each card, record on a separate paper the name of the person and beside it the number of his card. Collect the cards and have 2 or 3 persons read them and choose the winner(s). If you wish to have a winner from the boys and one from the girls, ask the boys to put a "B" on their cards; the girls a "G". On Mother's Day, read several of these paragraphs, ending with the best ones. Let the winners present the flowers to their mothers.

"Flowers leave their fragrance on the hand that bestows them
No wonder the hands of an unselfish mother are symbols of
sweetness unlike any other."

APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Suggested Date: June

If the police department, fire department, fuel company, chamber of commerce --and the endless number of service companies in your community--closed up and no longer were of service to the area, how would this affect your church?

Often as Christians we are disturbed by the trends towards the a-God and anti-God philosophies apparent through news media, community emphasis and individual activity. But, when good news and worthy community projects are reported, do we voice an approving applause?

Appreciation Sunday should be set aside to show appreciation to the services in the community, the teachers who bear a wholesome influence upon our children and news media which report worthwhile youth activities which present the positive side of the community.

Consider engaging in several of the following. These can be individual undertaking, or carried on for the individuals by the church leadership. Which ever way it is done, voice your thanks for those who help to keep the church doors open and who serve to make your community a better place to live.

1. Public School. Invite public school officials and teachers to this day. Plan a special appreciation (gift of book, card or scroll of appreciation etc.) for each. If these are Christian individuals a testimony from one or more would be appropriate. Invite one to tell what the church might do for the youth and children.
2. Service Companies. Write a letter of appreciation to such offices as the police and fire departments, chamber of commerce, city government, etc., thanking them for their part in making the community a better place to live. Their services--whether of protection or influence, etc.--help to keep your church doors open.
3. Home Influences. Honor all of the couples in your community who have celebrated 50 or more years of marriage. A corsage for each wife and boutonniere for each husband adds to the occasion. Invite them to sit in a special section. Interview 2 or 3 couples as to their secret for a happy home and marriage. Renewal of wedding vows for all married couples might be appropriate.
4. Block Mothers. In many cities "Block Mothers" are designated on each street which is an avenue for children to or from school. These mothers are available if a child needs help at these times. Honor these faithful ones who watch over the young ones in your city. If your city does not have such a program, spearhead this adventure. Talk to the local PTA or community agency into whose area this relates, and secure individuals in your church who will volunteer to serve.
5. Individual Civic Leaders or Clubs. Often in a community one individual or a group (such as a service club) is honored for their outstanding contribution to a segment of the community. Invite such a person or group to be honored.

TIPS FOR MAKING IT WORK

1. Secure the name and address of the officials in your community to whom you wish the members to write. Prepare a copy of these for each family or member. Pass them out on Appreciation Sunday.
2. Advertise Appreciation Sunday in the local papers. Secure, when possible, an interview with the pastor. A write-up before and after the Sunday is appropriate.
3. Ask the mayor to declare 'Appreciation Week' or "Day" throughout the community.
4. A sermon on influence and service is appropriate.
5. Suggest that youth invite a civic leader to talk to them in the Crusader Hour.
6. Adult Crusader members might invite a special guest for a discussion time that evening. This guest might be civic leaders, one of the couples honored for more than 50 years of marriage, someone in the community who works with children or youth, etc.

Try it.

Write, right now, your definition of "stewardship". Scratch it in the margin or in the space above. Just what is involved in that word? Do it now, before you read on.

Now compare it with the definition on page 2.

This quarter, immediately following Easter, the emphasis is two-fold:

*Christian Stewardship - an in-depth view of it and how it involves
you and your church*

Christian Families - the church's ministry to them and visa versa

It just can't all be said in 13 weeks, but at least in this quarter we can begin saying it and renewing and reviewing and revitalizing these ministries in your church.

FAMILIES

This word is like "mother" everyone believes in it. But often there is more sentiment than sense in our concepts. We stress the importance of families, but what does your Sunday school do to teach the meaning of Christian family relationships? Does your program contribute to the growth of faith for your families? Just sitting in the same pew or class won't solve the problem. How can the Sunday school ministry complement and help fulfill the family growing in Christ? This quarter's materials help you take a good hard look at the family and the ministry which your Sunday school and church can have towards them.

Try one or two of the following "extras" for family emphasis:

PTA

Sammy came home one day and said to his mother, "Mom, do you know my teacher?" "Well, no, not really well," came the reply. "Then, Mom, how do you both expect to raise me if you don't know each other?"

Public schools have their parent-teacher associations. Some are helpful, others are dull. What is the Sunday school doing to help parents work with it?

Plan a workers' conference on relationships of the Sunday school and family. Review the Home-Church pages and go from there. Ask four persons to speak out on:

1. Parents as parents in the Sunday school.
2. Parents as members of the Sunday school.

"Will a man rob God?" asked Billy Sunday. "You bet he will (he said) quicker than anyone else."

3. Parents as pupils of the Sunday school.
4. Parents as teachers of the Sunday school.

Allow for questions following these speakers.

FAMILY VBS

Send a letter NOW, announcing your family VBS dates and plans. It can't be replaced. It adds teaching time and helps build relationships, too.

YOUR ADULTS

Survey your Sunday school. What is the average attendance in the Sunday school--what percentage of the enrollment? Is it less in the adult area than the average in the other areas?

Plan to list new ways to vitalize your adult department. Ask your adults for their ideas. Plan to change if necessary.

STEWARDSHIP

"Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8)

PREVIEW TO SUMMER

A Sunday School Safari?

Yes, it's coming.

Where is your "hunting ground"? You'll find out some new ways and clever ideas for capturing big game in this Summer Sunday School Safari. Watch for the next packet.

And a Vacation Kit?

The oriental religions have gods who go on vacation for a month when they can not be contacted. Not our God! And what about His children. The Vacation Kit promises to give new ideas and tips for making Christianity meaningful for vacationers around the world.

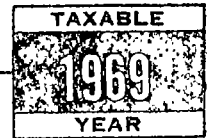
A cool reunion.

Grandmas, granddads, cousins, uncles, aunts, nephews, neices, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers; old, young, in-betweens; tall, short; slim or plump; everyone and more. Reunion Day in August promises unique, interesting, unbelievable ideas for gathering.

And all are in the Summer Sunday School Packet, available April 15.

Now that our "Income Tax Returns" have been filed and our financial obligation to our Government satisfied for the Year 1969, it is time to check up on our financial obligation to God. This form is for your personal use, only, and is not to be returned.

FILL OUT AND KEEP THIS REPORT -- DO NOT RETURN



INDIVIDUAL INCOME Tithe RETURN

Calendar Year 1969 or Fiscal Year Begun		1969 and Ended		1970		Your social security number	
FIRST NAME(S) AND INITIAL(S)				LAST NAME			
				Your occupation			
HOME ADDRESS (Number and street, or rural route)				COUNTY		Spouse's social security number (Separate or joint return)	
CITY, TOWN OR POST OFFICE		STATE		ZIP CODE		Spouse's occupation	

Income If joint return, includes all income of both husband and wife	1. Wages, salaries, tips, etc. (before payroll deductions) (if more than one employer, list in Part II, page 2) <small>Employer's name</small>	<small>Where employed (city and state)</small>	1	•
	2. Dividends		2	•
	3. Interest		3	•
	4. Other income		4	
	5. Total		5	

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings." -- Malachi 3:8

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." -- Malachi 3:10

"The Tithe is the Lord's." -- Leviticus 27:30

6 Enter 10% of amount on line 5 \$ _____

7 Enter amount given to God's work during 1969 \$ _____

8 Subtract line 6 from line 7 \$ _____

9 If tithe (line 6) is larger than amount given (line 7) enter here. This amount is due GOD! \$ _____

CHECK ONE:

- I do not agree with the Bible on tithing
- I have my own ideas about giving
- I will give God the balance of line 9

Signed _____ Date _____ 19 _____

Keep this report! God must be satisfied! He knows!
May we suggest: If your tithes and offerings do not measure up to the BIBLE standard, that you make this a matter of genuine consecration?