



PIRATES



ROCKSTARS



& FARMERS

## LEADER GUIDE

**Unit 4:** Pirates, Rockstars, and Farmers  
**Lesson 1:** Stewardship

# OVERVIEW

## UNIT OVERVIEW

### Lesson 1: Stewardship

**DISCIPLINE:** Consider what I'm Stewarding

**KEY VERSES:** James 1:17, Matthew 25:14-30, Psalm 24:1

### Lesson 3: Rockstars

**DISCIPLINE:** Good stewardship; Heart of gratitude

**KEY VERSES:** John 3:16, Luke 12:47-48, Psalm 24:1

### Lesson 2: Pirates

**DISCIPLINE:** Good stewardship; Heart of giving

**KEY VERSES:** Luke 12:32-34, Deut. 8:17-18, Psalm 23

### Lesson 4: Farmers

**DISCIPLINE:** Good stewardship; Heart of generosity

**KEY VERSES:** Matthew 6:25, 2Cor 9:6-7, 2Cor 9:6

## LESSON 1 OVERVIEW

**This month, we're going to examine stewardship in a series that is both fun and serious.**

We'll look at it from three different views: a pirate (next week), a rock star (in two weeks) and a farmer (the final week). Preteens will be challenged to dress as one of these each week. They'll also work on filling a treasure chest with treasure that they'll give to a ministry by the end of the month.

This week, we're going to learn that everything belongs to God. Yep, everything: our stuff, our bodies, our homes and health, our time and our talents, the things we earn and the things we're given as gifts. Everything is a gift from Yahweh Rohi, and he wants us to use everything to honor him. Sometimes that means giving him thanks, which is always a good first response. It may also mean giving something away to help someone in need. It may mean investing your talent of teaching or serving or whatever else in order to bring others to God. It may mean guarding your time so you can spend more of it with God.

Helping preteens think about how they care for themselves and the stuff they have is a concrete place to start as they connect the dots to the more abstract concept of caring for all that God has given them (e.g., their eyes and teeth, their families, their gifts and abilities, their world).

## LESSON 1 LEADER DEVO

**Read:** James 1:17

Stewardship is taking care of what we've been given to honor God. Think of all the good things God has given you (e.g., health, job, children). Write your favorite in this space:

Now think of a tough thing in your life. (e.g., lack of finances, illness, a death) Write the toughest one in this space:

Could this also be a gift from God? Take a few minutes to talk with God about both. How does he want you to use both to glorify him? How can you thank him for both things?



# SCHEDULE

## Lesson 1: Stewardship



### 01 WARM-UP

8 min

*Preteens will play an Opening Game and get a brief overview of today's lesson topic.*

**Today's Opening Game:** Pirates, Rock Stars and Farmers



### 02 M.A.P.

15 min

*Preteens will read through a passage of Scripture on their own. They'll consider what stands out to them from the passage and why it stands out to them. They'll also be given time to talk with God about the passage.*

**Today's Passage:** Matthew 25:14-30



### 03 DISCOVER

17 min

*Preteens will learn about spiritual disciplines that will help them draw closer to God. They'll discover the Biblical basis for these disciplines, the purpose and benefit of these disciplines, and the reasons why Christians have practiced these discipline throughout history.*

**Today's Discovery:** What is Stewardship?



### 04 QUEST

10 min

*Preteens will move into action as they practice different ways that they can grow in their own personal relationship with Jesus.*

**Today's Quest:** Considering what I'm Stewarding



All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Biblica. All rights reserved worldwide. The "NIV" and "New International Reader's Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Notated Scripture quotations are from the The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, ESV®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



⌚ 8 min



**NOTE:** Highlighted words indicate supplies to prepare. These are also listed in the ADMIN GUIDE.

[Slide 01 PRF]

[Slide 02 PRF Game Slide]

[AUDIO 01 Opening Game]

This game is similar to “Rock Paper Scissors.”

- 1) Pick two teams of 3-5 kids. You could make it teams of boys against girls, leaders against preteens, 5th grade against 6th grade, etc.
- 2) The two teams huddle up on opposite sides of the room to decide which they choose: pirate, rock star, or farmer.
- 3) Call the teams together after 20 seconds and have them stand shoulder to shoulder in a straight line with their teammates, facing the opposite team.
- 4) On the count of three, each team must show what they chose by posing together and making the sound of their chosen character.
- 5) For “rock star,” they must do the rock star pose (shown on the game slide) and make the sound of an epic air guitar.
- 6) For “pirate,” the team must make the pirate pose and say their most swashbuckling “Arrrrr!”
- 7) For “farmer,” the team must make the farmer pose and make their loudest “Suuueey” pig call.
- 8) Pirate beats rock star, rock star beats farmer, farmer beats pirate.
- 9) The first team to get two points is the winner.

[Slide 03 PRF]

I’m so glad you came to StepUp. Today, we’re starting a super-fun series called Pirates, Rock Stars and Farmers.







Over the next few weeks, you're invited to come to StepUp dressed up in a different outfit each week. We'll have prizes each week for awesome outfits. Next week's theme will be Pirates. Everybody say "PIRATES, Arghh." (PIRATES, ARGHH.)

So, next week, come dressed as a pirate. You could even bring a talking bird on your shoulder, as long as you don't mind the other pirates stealing it from you and eating it for lunch.

This series, Pirates, Rock Stars and Farmers, is going to be about a word that's very important for Christians. The word is "stewardship."

#### [Slide 04 Stewardship]

Before we give stewardship a definition, we're going to look at a story Jesus told which shows what good stewardship looks like, and helps us understand why it's so important.

Before we talk about it, you'll have a chance to read the story for yourself and think for yourself about what God's trying to show you through this story. We'll give you all a chance to read the Bible for yourself each week, during something called M.A.P. time.





**Note:** This is a longer passage of Scripture than most M.A.P. times. You'll want to allow an extra 5 minutes than is typical for M.A.P. time this week.

**[Slide 05 MAP]**

Today's passage of Scripture is a parable that Jesus told. Jesus told parables often. A parable is an Earthly story with a Heavenly point. As you read this story to yourself, think about what stands out to you and why. Also think about what the point of this story is.

There's one thing you should know before you begin reading. In the story, Jesus talks about people having talents. In this story, the word "talent" means a kind of money. So, when it says that one guy had five talents, think about it like five dollars. He very well may have also had five talents like juggling and tightrope walking, but that's not what it means in the story. In this story, talents are a kind of money.

Let's watch a short video that explains the steps of M.A.P.

**[VIDEO 01 MAP 01]**

**[Slide 06 MAP Matthew 25:14-30]**

**[AUDIO 02 MAP Time]**

(After the video/instructions, hand out MAP Cards to preteens who didn't bring a Bible. Also, give each preteen a pen/pencil and a highlighter.)

Give preteens time to complete M.A.P. as explained in the video. When it looks like most preteens are done, you can have preteens describe what they highlighted and wrote in their Bibles – or on the M.A.P. Cards – either in Small Groups or with the whole group.)

**Leader Tip:** Preteens who struggle with reading will have a difficult time with such a long passage. To help resolve this, leaders can read today's passage aloud (without commentary), and preteens can follow along.





⌚ 17 min



(As an option, show the video “Parable of the Talents” by Max7. Consider this option if you are not doing today’s M.A.P. time, or if you want to reinforce the story that preteens read during M.A.P. time.)

**[Slide 07 Parable of Talents]**

The story that you read during M.A.P. time is sometimes called The Parable of the Talents. Jesus told this parable about three servants and how they took care of their master’s stuff. Have you ever had someone ask you to take care of something while the person was gone? *(Take responses. If time permits, you could share a quick story of taking care of something for somebody.)*

In the parable of the talents, whose stuff was it that the servants had? (THE MASTER’S) That’s right. It was the master’s stuff.

Whose job was it to take care of the master’s stuff? (THE SERVANTS’) Yes. The servants had a responsibility to take care of their master’s stuff. Well, not just take care of it. They were expected to do something useful with their master’s stuff.

This story gives us a picture of stewardship. In the story, the servants were put in charge of taking care of and using their masters’ things. We are like those servants when it comes to the things in this world.

Here’s how we can think of stewardship. Stand up and read this definition with me.

**[Slide 08 Definition]**

Nice. You can all have a seat.

It’s kind of like your bedroom. For most of you, it’s YOUR responsibility to take care of your bedroom, even though the bedroom isn’t really yours. I mean, you live in it, but you can’t sell or rent your bedroom. You don’t fully own it. It’s your parents’ bedroom.

You’re taking care of something that’s been entrusted to you. That means you’re taking care of something that you’ve been trusted to take care of.

As Christians, we believe what it says in Psalm 24:1.

**[Slide 09 Psalm 24:1]**

*(Preselected leader stands up to read this verse.)*





The world and everything in it is God's. This shirt I'm wearing is God's. These shoes that I'm wearing are also God's. These hands (*wiggle your fingers*) are God's. According to the Bible, the world and everything in it are God's.

Just like you might have a responsibility to take care of a bedroom that isn't yours, Christians see all of life this same way. God gives us many amazing gifts. Our job, as stewards, is to use and take care of everything that God's given us in a way that shows God's greatness.

From reading Jesus' Parable of the Talents, we can tell that stewardship is an important thing.

Yahweh Rohi is a name for God that means "The Lord is my Shepherd." God takes good care of us, like a shepherd takes care of his sheep. Yahweh Rohi takes care of us, and provides everything we need. Then, he commands us to be good stewards. He wants us to take care of and use the Earth and everything he provides for us in ways that show his love to people around us. God wants to give us many good gifts, but then he wants us to take good care of these gifts, knowing that they really belong to him.

**Leader Tip:** Go to a fancy car dealership and take a photo of yourself by an expensive car and put that picture on the screen at this point. You could even hold up keys in the photo, pretending they are the keys to the car.

Imagine if I had a really fancy car and you were old enough to drive. One day, I give you the keys to my car and say, "As a gift to you, I want you to enjoy my car today." How would you respond? (*Take responses. Probably at first, a preteen will respond with something like, "Say thank you."*) How would you drive my car? Fast and reckless, or carefully? Why? (*Take responses.*) And before you returned the car to me, what might you do? (*Take responses. Looking for "wash the car" or "fill it with gas."*) Great answers. You just gave a picture of how a good steward acts.

We know that Yahweh Rohi has given us all so many great gifts. Things like food to eat, eyes to see with, a voice that we can sing with, the ability to make friends, a talent in arts or sports. Just like in the parable of the talents, he's given different gifts to each of us.

No matter what you've been given, God's command is to be a good steward of it. Let's look at a couple of verses about this.

**[Slide 10 1 Peter 4:10]**

Who can stand up and read this verse for us? (*Call on a preteen to come up front and read it. Then ask him or her:*) What is this verse saying that we should do with the things we have? (*"Use them to serve one another."*) Yeah, it says that as good stewards, we use the gifts God has given us to serve one another. Part of being a good steward is using the gifts God has given us to serve one another. You can have a seat.





Let's look at one more verse that shows us something about being a good steward. I'm going to read this one to you. Listen to the last sentence especially.

**[Slide 11 1 Corinthians 6:19]**

*(Read the verse.)* Wow. The earth and everything in it belongs to God. That includes you and me. That last sentence in 1 Corinthians 6:19 says "You do not belong to yourselves." Who do you and I belong to? (GOD.) Yeah. I don't belong to myself. I belong to God.

Let's look again at our definition of stewardship. Stand up one more time to read it with me.

**[Slide 12 Definition]**

Great. You can have a seat.

In the Parable of the Talents, there comes a day when the master comes back, and his servants have to stand in front of him and explain what they've done with the talents the master entrusted to them. In the same way, throughout our lives, you and I have to stand in front of God and explain what we're doing with the many gifts that he's entrusted us with, even in the moments when we least expect it.

It's important that we do good things with his stuff. It's important that we're good stewards.

So, let's think about it. How can we be good stewards of the gifts God has given us?

Let's think about just one gift God has given us. Our mouths. *(Hold up the pink index card with the picture of the mouth on it and walk over to large poster board. Uncover the large poster board revealing that it has "You do not belong to yourselves. - 1 Corinthians 6:19" written at the top.)*

How can I do what it says on the screen – how can I use and take care of my mouth in such a way that it shows God's greatness and shows love to everyone? There are a lot of different answers to this. I'm just going to write down a few of your ideas right now. *(Use a pen to write down 2-3 answers and write them on the index card. Then use tape to attach it to the poster board.)*

If you just stand there with your mouth shut, your arms crossed, and leaning against a wall during a worship time at church, are you being a good steward of the gifts God has given you? Are you using what God has given you to show God's greatness? (NO.) No. You're acting like your mouth and your arms and your body are yours. But they're not. They're God's. You are the steward. Remember: "I don't belong to myself." I belong to Jesus. He died on the Cross to pay the price to have you as his own and worship him forever and ever.





### [Slide 13 Quest What am I Stewarding]

*(Optionally, start today's Quest with a time of Worship.)*

During today's Quest, we'll be considering what God has trusted us with, and how we can be good stewards with the things he's given us. This is something we'll practice here, but this is a good practice to do throughout the week as you're noticing the different things you "have."

We already talked about some ways that we can be stewards of one of the gifts God has given us: our mouths. Let's do another one. *(Hold up the green index card with the picture of the house on it. If you don't have a house, draw a picture of some other physical item that you have.)* This is a drawing of my house. How can I be a good steward of this – how can I use and take care of my house in such a way that it shows God's greatness and shows love to everyone? *(Walk over to the second poster board and reveal "The earth belongs to the LORD. And so does everything in it." Take 2-3 answers and write them on the index card. Then attach it to this poster board.)*

Alright. One last one. *(Hold up the blue index card with the word TEACHING written on it. If you don't feel like teaching is a talent of yours, or you'd rather do another one, write that on the card instead.)* This is something else that God has given me. My talents and abilities are gifts from God. Some of you are good at art. That's your talent. And that's a gift from God. Some of you are good at sports. That's your talent. And that is also a gift from God. For me, teaching is a talent that God has given me. So, how can I be a good steward of that – how can I take care of and use my teaching ability in such a way that it shows God's greatness and love to everyone? *(Walk over to the third poster board and reveal "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's grace - 1 Peter 4:10." Take 2-3 answers and write them on the index card. Then attach it to this poster board.)*

For our workshop time today, we're going to think about the many gifts that God has given us, and how we could be good stewards. We have four different colors of index cards to go with 4 categories of gifts that God has given us. We'll put these categories on the screen and the definition of Stewardship so you can remember them throughout today's Quest.

### [Slide 14 Colors]

Your challenge during today's Quest is to write down or draw at least one thing in each category on a matching colored index card, and then use a pen to write 2 or 3 ideas of how you can be a good steward with that gift.

Write or draw body parts, things, talents, or time that you actually have! For instance, I might grab a card from this stack of pink cards over here, and draw a hand on it. I actually have two hands, so that's something I could choose. Then, I'll write 2-3 ways that I can be a good steward of my hands. I couldn't draw a picture of an antler, because that's not something I have on my body.





Or, I might go to this **stack of green card** over here, take one, and draw a [car] on it. That's something that I actually have. Then, I'll write 2-3 ways that I can be a good steward of my car. Now, I don't think any of you have a car, so you can't use that example.

Remember, you're thinking of things you actually have.

You could grab a card from the **stack of blue cards**, draw or write a talent or ability that you have and 2 or 3 ways that you can be a good steward of that.

Finally, the **stack of yellow cards** are over here. On these, you can write down a day of the week, like "Saturday," or a certain time that you have in the day, like "recess time." Then, just like the other cards, think of how you can take care of and use that gift and write 2 or 3 ways that you can be a good steward with it. How could I use Saturday or recess time to show God's greatness or show love to other people? *(Don't take a response.)*

As you finish each card, use **tape** to attach it to the matching poster board. For the yellow cards, since they're about time, we have this **giant clock drawn on a poster board** in the back of the room. Attach your yellow cards to that.

Any questions?

OK. Go.

*(Play **reflective instrumental music** during this time.)*





PIRATES



ROCKSTARS



& FARMERS

## ADMIN GUIDE

**Unit 4:** Pirates, Rockstars, and Farmers  
**Lesson 1:** Stewardship



# SUPPLIES

## Lesson 1: Stewardship



### 01 WARM-UP

8 min

- None



### 02 M.A.P.

15 min

- Highlighters for each preteen
- Pens for each preteen
- **MAP Card** for each preteen (*copy on cardstock*)



### 03 DISCOVER

17 min

- Bible
- Preselected leader to read Psalm 24:1 at the correct time
- *Optional: Go to a fancy car dealership and take a photo of yourself by an expensive car. Hold up keys in the photo as though they are the keys to this car.*
- Pink index card with a picture of a mouth drawn on it
- Poster board with the words "You do not belong to yourselves – 1 Corinthians 6:19" written at the top
- Something to cover the words on the poster board until it is revealed
- Pen
- Tape



### 04 QUEST

10 min

- 4 Poster boards, including the one described above. On the other three, write/draw:
  - "The earth belongs to the LORD. And so does everything in it. – Psalm 24:1"
  - "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's grace - 1 Peter 4:10"
  - A large clock face
- Something to cover these three poster boards until they are revealed
- Stacks of index cards: pink, green, blue, and yellow
- Draw a house on one green card, and write "TEACHING" on one blue card
- Pens and/or markers for each preteen
- Tape

**NOTE:** Within the leader guide, supplies are **highlighted** so you can understand how they'll be used and prepare accordingly.

**NOTE:** Supplies on this page that are written in a **bold font** can be found in the *Printables* Section.



All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Biblica. All rights reserved worldwide. The "NIV" and "New International Reader's Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Notated Scripture quotations are from the The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, ESV®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

# PRINTABLES

## Lesson 1: Stewardship



### MAP Card (Matthew 25:14-30)

1. Scripture	2. Questions
<b>Matthew 25:14-30</b> 14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a journey, who entrusted his property to his servants, and gave them authority over his goods. 15 One gave five talents to one, two to another, and one to a third, according to their abilities, and then he went on his journey. 16 The man who received five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. 17 The man who received two talents also traded, and gained two more talents. 18 The man who received one talent went and dug a hole in the ground, and hid his talent there. 19 After a long time, the lord of those servants came, and he reckoned with them. 20 The man who had gained five talents came and said, 'Lord, I have gained five talents more.' 21 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little, I will put you over much. Come and share your master's joy.' 22 The man who had gained two talents also came and said, 'Lord, I have gained two talents more.' 23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little, I will put you over much. Come and share your master's joy.' 24 The man who had hidden his talent came and said, 'Lord, I was afraid, for I knew that you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.' 25 So I hid your talent in the ground, and here it is.' 26 His lord said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.' 27 So you should have put my money to the bankers, and I would have gained interest, and I would have come and found more money.' 28 So he said to the servants, 'Take the talent from him, and give it to the man who has gained five talents.' 29 And he said to the servants, 'I tell you, every one who is not ready for the coming of the Son of Man, will be cast out, and will go into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'	

## 1 Highlight what stands out for Me.

# Matthew 25:14-30

## 2 How does what I highlighted Affect me?

"Again, here is what the kingdom of heaven will be like. A man was going on a journey. He sent for his slaves and put them in charge of his money. He gave five bags of gold to one. He gave two bags to another. And he gave one bag to the third. The man gave each slave the amount of money he knew the slave could take care of. Then he went on his journey. The slave who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work. He earned five bags more. The one with the two bags of gold earned two more. But the man who had received one bag went and dug a hole in the ground. He hid his master's money in it.

"After a long time the master of those slaves returned. He wanted to collect all the money they had earned. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you trusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have earned five more.'

"His master replied, 'You have done well, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you trusted me with two bags of gold. See, I have earned two more.'

"His master replied, 'You have done well, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest where you have not planted. You gather crops where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid. I went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

"His master replied, 'You evil, lazy slave! So you knew that I harvest where I have not planted? You knew that I gather crops where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money in the bank. When I returned, I would have received it back with interest.'

"Then his master commanded the other slaves, 'Take the bag of gold from him. Give it to the one who has ten bags. Everyone who has will be given more. They will have more than enough. And what about anyone who doesn't have? Even what they have will be taken away from them. Throw that worthless slave outside. There in the darkness, people will weep and grind their teeth.'

# M.A.P.

## 3 Pray about what you highlighted.