

## MOTIVES OF THE HEART

Sabbath School Bible Studies

Five Questions for Life Change

Study Text: (various)

Stewards after Eden

### Open

1. As we arrive at our 5<sup>th</sup> study in this series, we're going to define what stewardship is. In quick, rapid-fire style, invite group members to give as many single word definitions as possible. Create a list and if possible, write the ideas in a place where group members can see them. By process of elimination, discover which word offered provides the best definition.

### Dig

2. *"Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it."* (Genesis 2:15). How do you understand this text, and to what extent do you think humankind has done an excellent job of looking after planet earth, a) what it's done good, and b) what not so good?
3. *Genesis 43:19 & 44:1 & 4*, illustrates the role of a steward. First, Joseph is the personal steward to Potiphar and faced the crisis of reputation. A few years later, as prime minister of Egypt, the nation faced the crisis of impending famine. Joseph's stewardship of resources saves the nation from famine. Both roles were determined by 'character'. Discuss.
4. Look at Luke 15:6-7, 9-10 & 21-24 in the context of the quote by Bill Hybels, *"Lost people matter to God."* Do lost people matter to us? How does, how we do church, reflect our commitment to reaching lost people? Hybels also reminds us that 'mission' is important and urgent because somebody tonight will go to their grave without knowing Christ.

### Reflect

5. *"All the richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are embedded in that mystery and nowhere else"*, says Paul, talking about Christ (Colossians 2:3, The Message). If we have the treasure, and others do not, what are we going to do about it?

5 Q's for Life Change (above): Easy to use, they encourage study groups to open and discover scripture, and then apply.

To get the most out of this inductive Bible study:

Read the key text together (taken from the adult Sabbath School Lesson study).

1. Use question 1, as the icebreaker, and introduction to the discussion.
2. Use questions 2, 3, and 4, to dig as deep into scripture as your group wishes to go.
3. Question 5 is for reflection/application.
4. Surround the study with prayer.