

MOTIVES OF THE HEART

Sabbath School Bible Studies

Five Questions for Life Change

Study Texts: 2 Tim. 3:1–9; Phil. 4:4–13;
1 Pet. 2:11, 12

The Results of Stewardship

Open

The final bible study in this series attempts to bring together all that we have discovered about stewardship over the last 3 months. To put it another way, we're looking at the 'so what' of it all. Discuss together the following statement from the adult study guide on page 105.

"Stewardship is, really, an expression of a godly life. Faithful stewards don't have just a form of godliness. They are godly, and this godliness is revealed in how they live, in how they handle the things that their God has entrusted them with. Their faith is expressed not only in what they do but also in what they don't do."

Dig

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9

Paul's letter to Timothy, written from his prison cell in Rome, circa AD65, is thought to be his very last letter. He emphasises godly living, in the context of a society that is not. *"In the last days there will come times of difficulty."* (3:1). How does living a godly life in a godless society cause difficulty? Share together.

2. *Philippians 4:8-9* provides the Christian with a prescription on how to survive in a godless society. How easy or difficult is it to successfully follow Paul's wisdom? Discuss in the context of 'media noise', through news, drama, music & art. Then consider from the perspective of human relationships.
3. *"Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles, to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul."* (1 Peter 2:11). Unpack this verse focussing particularly on the words, 'beloved', 'sojourners', 'passions of the flesh' and 'war'. Cross-check with other translations of this verse to help understand.
4. *1 Peter 2:12* suggests that the life and witness of a Christian has a positive effect on others who do not believe. Can you think of an example from your own life, where your witness through either word or deed has helped someone?

Reflect

From the adult lesson study guide page 110:

*“In 25 words or less, what is your definition of stewardship?” Then ask the question:
“In 25 words or less, why is stewardship an important part of the Christian’s life?”*

Pray together for God’s living Word will continue to help us put Him first in our lives.

To get the most out of this inductive Bible study:

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

Use question 1, as the icebreaker, an introduction to the discussion.

Use questions 2, 3, and 4, to dig as deep into scripture as your group wishes to go.

Question 5 is for reflection/application.

Surround the study with prayer.