

PREPARATION WELL DONE

Step Two



A Personal or Small Group Guide for the

Stewardship
WELL DONE
JOURNEY

Welcome

This discipleship guide is the second in a series for the *Stewardship Well Done Journey*.

The first session was about identifying our priorities, evaluating our time and money spent on those priorities, and prayerfully asking God to speak into them. Next is the first of two studies regarding *preparation*.

Many people often create a line of separation between their financial well-being and their spiritual life in Christ — believing that God cares about our eternity, but not as much about our present actions or the way we spend our resources. The Scriptures embrace preparation. God's word asks us to consider the "cost" before following Jesus (Luke 14:25-28), and to live in a state of preparation as we await His return (Matthew 25:1-13).

Do you believe God cares about the way you spend your money and other resources? Why or why not?

With your answer in mind, take a moment to read the following story.

Jack and Evelyn had been married 13 years. They both had good jobs, owned a home and had 3 children. All seemed great, but Jack had a couple nagging issues in the back of his mind.

He was frustrated they weren't giving and saving more. He knew they had good income but felt they should be further along with college and retirement savings. Plus, he wanted to give more to a few ministries in his church where he and Evelyn volunteered.

Jack shared his concerns with Evelyn. Through their conversation, they started discussing their life's priorities. Three things rose to the top: their family, their faith community, and their future. Jack knew they needed be to more intentional about pushing their money towards those priorities. He was not sure how they'd make it all work, but he felt confident that they needed to more closely monitor their spending and put giving and saving first.

Consider your own spending. Do saving and giving reflect a priority in your life?

Jack wasn't sure how "they'd make it (being more intentional with their money) work." Do you resonate with those feelings when it comes to saving and spending?



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To provide for and protect our priorities requires intentionally allocating resources toward them — the things you have prayerfully identified as being most important to you. Some people call this “budgeting”. That word can stir up all kinds of emotion, but remember, very little happens by chance. Your preparation will significantly increase the odds of your success.

Can you identify 1 time in your life that you left something to chance that really called for your intention? What resulted from that decision?

If that was a decision in your distant past, did it produce any lasting consequences for your life?

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement in 18th century England, encouraged the first Methodists to “*Earn all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can.*” His advice culminated in the third part of his quote: “Give all you can.” God is generous and it would follow that His children would be generous as well. Wesley says,

“(Money) is an excellent gift of God, answering the noblest ends. In the hands of his children, it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, raiment for the naked. It gives to the traveler and the stranger where to lay his head. By it we may supply the place of a husband to the widow, and of a father for the fatherless; we may be a defense for the oppressed, a means of health to the sick, of ease to them that are in pain. It may be as eyes to the blind, as feet to the lame; yea, a lifter up from the gates of death.”

How have you witnessed monetary generosity doing great things for the Kingdom of God?

Would you be more willing to embrace a budget if you began with a dream for good rather than a perception of personal restriction?

Think of your own financial situation. How might a budget and wisely allocating the resources entrusted to your care help you be a more generous person?

Now let’s look back in on Jack and Evelyn.

A few weeks later, Jack and Evelyn were lying in bed talking and Jack remarked how free he felt knowing they were working on being more intentional with their resources. Evelyn agreed, “I was really worried at first because I didn’t know where to start and I was afraid we would find out we weren’t going to be able to make it all work. I guess I thought it was easier to avoid things than do the hard work. But you know what? I am so glad we are talking about this stuff and taking action. It feels good to be proactive instead of reactive.”

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While the story of Jack and Evelyn is for illustration purposes, it is very similar to the countless stories we hear from those we serve. Maybe you too resonate with some of Jack and Evelyn's concerns. We exist to answer our client's questions, provide sound biblical advice, and help them utilize the tools to take the next best step on their stewardship journey.

Spiritual Freedom comes from believing in God and trusting Him to lead you. Financial freedom comes from being intentional to prepare well and having your priorities as a compass for your life decisions. Loving God and Loving Others starts with your family (which most of our clients list as a top priority). Living with fear about the future is not living.

Scan the QR Code below for additional resources to help you engage this step of the Stewardship Well Done Journey.



Scan the QR Code below to listen in on a conversation about the life-giving freedom that comes from budgeting with the staff at FMF Financial Services.

