

NEXT LEVEL

Stewardship

**Developing a Stewardship
Culture in the Local Church**





PRAY

When you don't know how to articulate a subject then pray about it. Pastors who lead their congregations to pray demonstrate a desperate dependence upon God ". . . because your father knows what you need before you ask him" (Matthew 6:8). The most important step of increased giving is when a congregation comes before the Lord asking Him for guidance in biblical stewardship. Scripture teaches that "we have not because we ask not" (James 4:2). The church must begin by turning to God in prayer, asking Him to send a spirit of true stewardship. We should place our needs intentionally and explicitly before God—including praying over the weekly offering and praying over special financial needs.

HE IS A GOOD FATHER AND WILL PROVIDE.



PLAN

Churches that do stewardship well focus on it more than just a couple of weeks in the fall. A year-round strategy to help church members learn that stewardship is not about how the church pays its bills, but **IT'S ABOUT LORDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD**. Regardless of the size, whether 50 members or 5,000 members, each church should have a comprehensive giving plan. The plan should cater to the needs and the calling of the local church. Church members want to see a manifestation of their giving. Some simple components of a giving strategy that would keep stewardship front and center are:

- **Annual Financial Goals**
- **Financial Responsibility**
- **Testimonials**
- **Capital Campaigns**
- **Ministry Spotlights**
- **Preaching Series**



PROMOTE

Keeping biblical stewardship in front of the congregation has to be intentional and creative. One of the basic communication principles is that a person has to hear about a concept 17–18 different times and 7–8 different ways before they truly hear it the first time. **REPTITION IS KEY.** The more you communicate stewardship the more people internalize it. Pastors must have a genuine excitement in communicating biblical stewardship.



PREACH

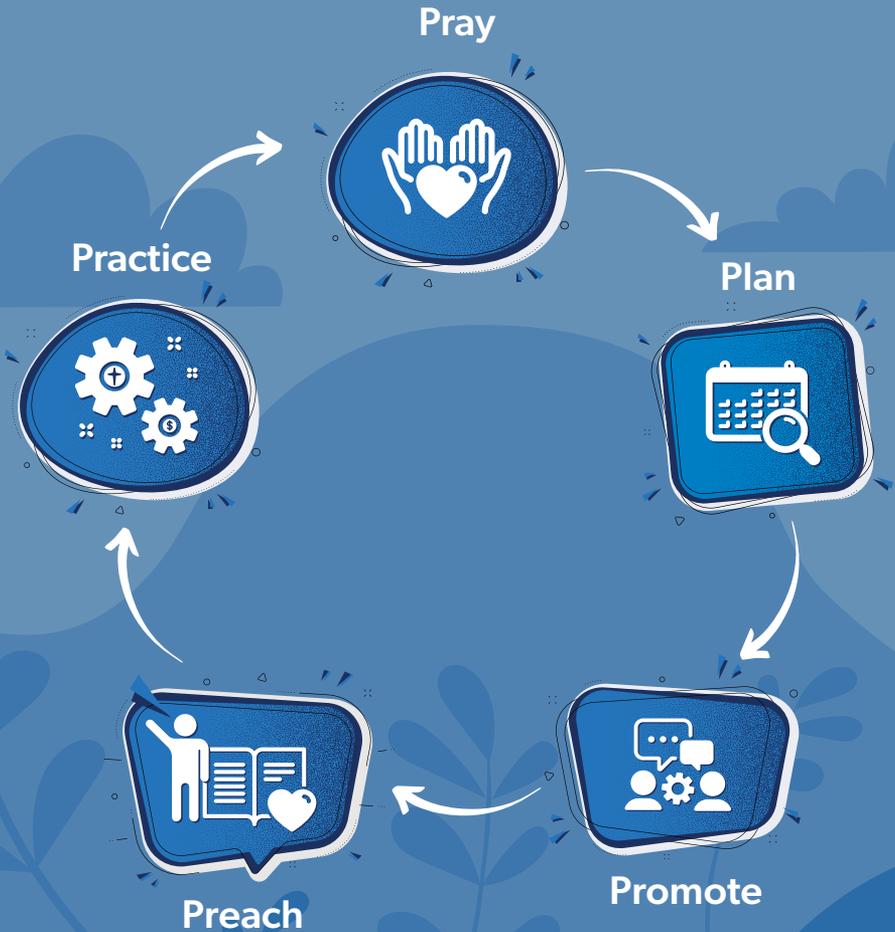
We know from research that pastors who preach on stewardship experience increased giving. **STEWARDSHIP IS NOT JUST A BIBLICAL DISCIPLINE, BUT IT IS A GODLY CHARACTERISTIC.** Generosity is the fruit that results from a church whose members remain in Christ. Stewardship should be interwoven into all sermons, but frequently focusing on the discipline of stewardship will fortify the commitment of the church and its members.



PRACTICE

A basic leadership principle is: “People don’t do what you say; they do what you do.” The pastor must practice biblical stewardship and hold leaders in the local church accountable to doing the same. James reminds us, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only. . .” (James 1:22). **PASTORS MUST PROVIDE REGULAR OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CONGREGATION TO PRACTICE GENEROSITY AND RECOMMIT TO BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP.**

This guide highlights five simple steps that will assist your church in elevating biblical stewardship.



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