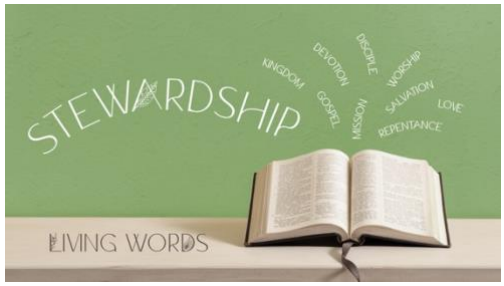
life DISCOVERY groups

Week beginning:
Monday 9th November 2026

Worship series:
LIVING WORDS
#9 STEWARDSHIP



ENTER God's presence

Psalm 24:1-6

1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
2 for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.

3 Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?
4 The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.

5 They will receive blessing from the Lord
and vindication from God their Savior.
6 Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob

PRAYER: Heavenly Father. Everything we have and everything we are belongs to you. Thank you for the countless gifts you have entrusted to us, and especially for the abundance of your love and grace in Jesus Christ. As we gather around your Word, bring your living Word alive in us, and teach us to trust you as we faithfully use your gifts to bless others. Amen.

VERSE for the week

"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

Luke 12:21

SHARE life together

1. **What are your highs and lows since you last met?**
2. **What is something that you have been given or entrusted with that you particularly treasure? What makes it so special?**
3. **If you suddenly found you had an extra day each week, how would you choose to spend it?**

REMEMBER this week

Abundant grace is the fundamental reality of life. Everything entrusted to us belongs to the Father & is to be used for his purposes.

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Think about what happens when you're holding something precious and you're afraid of losing it. Instinctively, your fingers tighten around it. The more concerned you are about losing it, the tighter you hold on. But there's something interesting about a clenched fist. While it might protect what you're holding, it also makes it difficult to do anything else with it. You can't share it, put it to work, or receive something new without first opening your hand.

Sometimes we approach life in much the same way. Whether it's our money, possessions, time, abilities or opportunities, the fear of not having enough can cause us to hold tightly to what we have.

In today's readings, Jesus tells two parables about people who respond to what they've received in different ways. Yet beneath their different circumstances, we might discover something they have in common. As you read, consider what each person is holding onto, what they're afraid of losing, and what their actions reveal about where they place their trust.

Read **Luke 19:11-27** and **Luke 12:16-21** HERE or in your own Bible.

4. **What verse/concept/teaching in these readings caught your attention and what was challenging/confronting/comforting about them for you?**
5. **In Luke 19:11–27, what are the servants entrusted with, and what does their master expect them to do with it?**
6. **How does the third servant explain his decision to hide what he was given? What does this reveal about his view of the master?**
7. **In Luke 12:16–21, how does the rich farmer respond to his abundant harvest? What seems to be most important to him?**
8. **How does each parable end, and what do Jesus' words reveal about the consequences of the characters' decisions?**

GROW deeper

Think again about the image of a clenched fist. In both parables, we encounter people holding tightly to what they have. One is afraid of losing the little he's been given, while the other is determined to store up enough to secure his future. Despite their different circumstances, both seem to be driven by the same fear: *What if I don't have enough?*

But what if that fear is based on a misunderstanding of how the world really works? What if, rather than scarcity, the fundamental reality of our existence is God's abundant grace? After all, everything we have comes from the God who created something out of nothing, and whose love and mercy are inexhaustible. Perhaps the key to opening our hands isn't simply learning to let go, but learning to trust the One who gives.

9. **Both parables reveal people who seem afraid of not having enough. Where do you see this same fear influencing people's attitudes and decisions today?**
10. **How does recognising that everything belongs to God (Psalm 24:1) challenge the way we think about ownership, security and what we need?**
11. **God's generosity is revealed most fully in Jesus Christ. How does the abundance of his love and grace challenge a worldview shaped by scarcity?**
12. **In Luke 19, the third servant's fear is shaped by how he views his master. How might our understanding of God's character affect whether we live with clenched fists or open hands?**
13. **How might trusting God's provision change the way we approach the time, abilities, possessions and opportunities he has entrusted to us?**

LIVE purposefully

MAKE IT REAL:
A clenched fist might protect what we're holding, but an open hand allows us to put those gifts to work. When we recognise that everything we have comes from our generous God, we no longer need to live as though our security depends entirely on what we can hold onto. His abundant love and grace free us to live with open hands, trusting him as we share what we've received.

Stewardship, then, isn't simply about managing our possessions or giving more of what we have. It's about recognising that our whole lives have been entrusted to us by God, and discovering how he might use our time, abilities, relationships and resources to bring his love and blessing to others.

14. **What areas of your life do you find yourself holding onto with a clenched fist? What fears might be behind that?**
15. **What gifts, abilities, resources or opportunities has God entrusted to you that could be used to bless others?**
16. **What is one practical way you could live with more open hands this week, trusting God's generosity as you share what he's given you?**

Plan your weekly devotions or download the Church Central app for the daily LifeWay Devotions

PRAY intentionally

You might like to pray together the following prayer, or spend time sharing together your prayer needs and praying for one another.

Generous and loving Father,
Thank you that everything we have and everything we are comes from you. Forgive us for the times when fear causes us to hold tightly to what you've given us, rather than trusting in your goodness. Remind us that your love and grace in Jesus Christ are more than enough, and that our security rests in you. By your Holy Spirit, help us to live with open hands, faithfully using all you've entrusted to us to bless others and bring glory to your name.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross on their forehead or on the palm of their hand as you say...

[Name], As God has blessed you, may you also bless others. Amen.