

# Children's Stewardship

## Example 8.10 (cont'd)

### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- \*Story: "Stone Soup"
- \*a Bible or Lectionary
- \*Book of Blessings
- \*basket for commitment promises
- \*Easter candle or Christ candle
- \*Baptistry with water or large bowl with holy water
- \*Songbooks, etc.

Stewards of God's gifts are not passive beneficiaries. We cooperate with God in our own redemption and in the redemption of others.

We are also obliged to be stewards of the Church – collaborators and cooperators in continuing the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, which is the Church's essential mission. This mission – proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying – is our task. It is the personal responsibility of each one of us as stewards of the church.

All members of the Church have their own roles to play in carrying out its mission.

- \* parents, who nurture their children in the light of faith;
- \* parishioners, who work in concrete ways to make their parishes true communities of faith and vibrant sources of service to the larger community;
- \* all Catholics, who give generous support-time, money, prayers, and personal service according to their circumstances – to parish and diocesan programs and to the universal Church.

"Stewardship, properly understood, is nothing less than a complete lifestyle, as total accountability and responsibility before God. Stewardship is what we do after we say we believe, that is, after we give our love, loyalty and trust to God, from whom every aspect of our life comes as gift"

*[A Pilgrim people: Westerhoff, John. 1984.  
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Today, boys and girls, I want you to think about two things; what it means to follow Jesus by serving others and what it means to be a "steward of the church".

### 1. SCRIPTURE:

**2 Cor. 9:6-8 – God's generosity**

**1 Pt. 4:10 – Sharing gifts**

Let us begin with a reading from Scripture. (Read the above Scripture quotations.) Think about that for a minute:... God will always provide in abundance as you give – God gives more – God cannot be outdone. But what has been given to us is to be used to serve one another as good stewards. What does this mean to you? (Discussion drawn into application.) The students should tell how each one's gifts are used to serve the community, the Church. Themes which should be brought into the discussion are time, talent, treasure, priesthood of the baptized and involvement in Church and community.

### 2. GUIDED DISCUSSION: STONE SOUP

There is another way to illustrate this important message. The teacher should tell (or read) the story "Stone Soup" (Brian Cavanaugh, *Fresh Packet of Sower's Seeds – Third Planting*,



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## **Example 8.10 (cont'd)**

Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1994 or William R. White, *Stories for the Journey*, Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1988.); or show the video. The following questions can be used to lead the discussion.

- \* What was happening in the village when the stranger came?
- \* How were the people acting?
- \* At first, were the people willing to share with the stranger?
- \* What changed?
- \* If just one of the foods was used, would the soup be as good? Why?
- \* How does the story show the side used of what one has?
- \* How was the community affected by the gifts of one another?

### **3. ACTIVITY: DESIGN A MAGAZINE COVER**

Imagine that you are the art director of a magazine. You are about to design the cover of the next issue, and you want that cover to tell the theme of the issue and its meaning. The theme is stewardship on the cover. Proceed.

(After students have completed their designs give each an opportunity to explain the cover to the rest of the class.)

### **4. COMPOSITION:**

Remember when Jesus washed the Apostles' feet at the Last Supper. They had been traveling, their feet were hot and dusty and needed to be washed. Jesus decided to do the washing. Through this loving action, he showed his friends, and us, how we can serve

others best. We need to look around for things that need to be done and do them.

Our last activity today will be to think of something that each one can do to live out stewardship. In your own words, write a short prayer to the Holy Spirit. Ask the Spirit to help you discover your gifts and put them to work in the service of others. Write down your commitment to present at the ritual prayer.

### **5. RITUAL PRAYER: RITUAL OF COMMISSIONING**

Using the commitment promises as a center piece, this commissioning service is based on the "**Order for the Blessing of Those Who Exercise Pastoral Service**" (within a celebration of the Word) as found in the **Book of Blessings**.

### **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

If the ritual cannot take place in the church, the Easter (or Christ) candle and water should be in a central place in the room (all during class would be effective). The Easter candle is lit before starting the ritual. The ritual begins with an appropriate song known by all. ("**Lead Us On**", "**Whatever You Do**", etc.) The ritual should follow the format of the "**Order for the Blessing of Those Who Exercise Pastoral Service**" within a celebration of the Word) as found in the **Book of Blessings**. Before the Prayer of the Faithful, each student comes forward, reads their commitment promise aloud, and places it in the basket. After the Prayer of Blessing, each student is asked to bless themselves and others with holy water and offer each other a sign of peace.



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## **Example 8.11**

### **Stewards of Life: Discipleship Lesson Plan Outline**

**Grade Level or Course:** 10-12

**Outcome:** The students will identify, define, and apply the role of "discipleship".

**Objectives:**

- Students will recognize models of "discipleship".
- The students will define what it means to be a disciple of Christ.
- Students will understand the ultimate reward for following Jesus.

**Comments:** A disciple is defined as "a follower of Jesus".

<b>PRAYER</b>	<b>TEACHING METHODS</b>	<b>STUDENT ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>APPLICATION</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>
*Prayer experience	*Liturgical music reflection/discussion  *Scripture reflection/discussion  *Group brainstorming/discussion	*Small group discussions on the Beatitudes – How they apply to our lives today  <b>OR</b> *Reflection on song used in liturgy and how that song applies to us as disciples  <b>OR</b> *Write your own "Canticle" – How do you "magnify the Lord" personally?  <b>OR</b> *A small group discussion on the Holy Family as model	*Class discussion  *Writing  *Reflection questions  *Family Activity (as explained in the course outline)	*Scripture  * <i>Stewardship: A Disciples Response</i> (the U.S. Bishops' 1993 Pastoral Letter on Stewardship)



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## **Example 8.11 (cont'd)**

### **SUPPLIES NEEDED:**

- \*Tape player or sheet music
- \*Bibles
- \*Candle
- \*Basket
- \*"God Has Chosen Me" reflection sheet (page 28)
- \*"Stewards of Life: Discipleship" Family Page (page 29)
- \*Listing of scripture passages for prayer Experience (page 30)
- \*Beatitudes worksheet (page 32) – Optional Activity
- \*Have students write their own "Canticle" :(How do I magnify the Lord Personally?) Optional Activity (Refer to Luke 1:46-55)

**1. What does it mean to be a Christian disciple? Open class by listening to or singing "God Has Chosen Me". (Page 31 may be used for this activity)**

**2. Give students seven minutes to answer a reflection question of their choice.**

(Possible student responses are shown in parenthesis.)

As a youth in today's society, whose "cry is unheard" and how am I responding to that cry? (the unborn, the young, the poor, the aged.)

How am I responding to the call to "bring to birth a new kingdom on earth"? (Using the ten commandments as a code by which to live my life; witnessing to God's love; loving those who are hard to love; honoring God in all things.)

Who do I recognize as having a "voice with no power or choice" and how am I

responding? (The poor, victims, of domestic violence, abused children)

Who do I believe to be "searching for light" and how am I responding to God's call to be a light for all nations? (The students may have personal experiences with friends or family that they would like to share.)

"...disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ, no matter the cost to themselves."

*(Stewardship: A Disciple Response p.1)*

**3. Lead a group discussion on how the students are answering God's call, using the reflection questions as the basis for the discussion.**

**4. Read John 1:35-51 (Jesus calls His disciples). Lead students in brief discussion using the following questions as a guide:**

Andrew led Simon to follow Jesus. Can you think of anyone in your life who has led you to follow Jesus? How did this person introduce Jesus to you?

How can you personally be like Philip and draw others to follow Jesus?

Nathaniel doubted if anything good could come from Nazareth but followed Jesus after Jesus called him by name. Have you ever had any doubts about the goodness of Jesus or doubts about following Him at all cost?



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## Example 8.11 (cont'd)

### 5. Read Luke 9:23-24 (We must deny ourselves and take up our cross to follow Jesus)

"What crosses do I take up daily to follow Jesus?"

### 6. Ask the students to summarize the preceding discussion, using the following as a guide only.

Ask students to write for five minutes on the following question:

As Catholic Christians, we have each been called as a disciple to follow Jesus.

(Refer back to the opening song "God Has Chosen Me".)

It is up to each of us to bring others to Christ. (refer back to John 1:35-51)

Following Christ (which is what it means to be a disciple) means we must deny ourselves and accept the pain and suffering along with the joy.

Being a disciple means "committing one's very self to the Lord." It is "an entire way of life"; a "change of mind and heart"

*(Stewardship: A Disciples Response p.2).*

### 7. Recognizing Models of Discipleship (Also, see alternate activities on Page 32.)

Have students break into three groups (each group will need a Bible). Assign each group one member of the Holy Family.

Have students look up the following passages and identify the qualities that make Jesus, Mary or Joseph models for discipleship. (The students will look up only those passages that pertain to the family member they were assigned.)

Group 1: Mary – Luke 1:46-55 (Magnificat); Luke 1:26-38 (Visitation of the Angel Gabriel)

"After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense."

*(Stewardship: A Disciples Response p.43)*

Group 2: Joseph – Matt 1:18-23; Matt 2:19-23

Group 3: Jesus – Jn 13:12-15 (Washing of the feet) (Give the students the background information on why Jesus was washing the disciple's feet); Luke 22:41-42 (Agony in the Garden); Luke 2:41-49 (Jesus as a boy in the temple); Matt 4:1-11 (temptation in the desert)

Allow about 15 minutes for small groups to discuss. Then come back together as a large group and ask the small groups to share their findings.

### 8. Family Activity:

Encourage the students to work with their family to name a present-day disciple and compare their qualities of discipleship with those of the Holy Family. **(Page 29 may be used for this activity.)**



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## Example 8.11 (cont'd)

### 9. Stewards of God's Gifts

As Catholic Christians, we are called to be good stewards of the gifts and talents received from God. Read the Parable of the Talents; Mt. 25:14-30. Summarize the reading as follows:

By the grace of God, we receive gifts and talents.

It is up to us to use those talents and gifts and return them to God with increase (stewardship).

More responsibility will be given to those who multiply the gifts given them.

Those who return their gifts with increase to God will share in His joy.

“One who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns with increase to the Lord.”

*(Stewardship: A Disciples Response p. 7,8,45)*

### 10. What is our ultimate reward for following Jesus?

The following scripture tells us of our reward for following Christ:

Matt 5:12; John 17:1-3; 20-24

### 11. Close this session with a short prayer service as follows:

Play or sing “We Are Called” or some other appropriate song on discipleship/call to service.

Light a candle in the prayer corner. Alongside the candle have a basket filled with slips of paper rolled up like a scroll tied with yarn or ribbon. On each slip of paper, have a scripture verse pertaining to discipleship/service. (Use page 33.)

Ask each student to come forward and pick out a scripture from the basket. Encourage the students to reflect on their scripture during the week and put it into action.

After they have chosen their scripture reading, have them form a circle, turn off the music and recite the following prayer:

**Leader:** Heavenly Father: You call each of us to follow your Son, Jesus Christ. Give us the grace to know your will and the courage to trust you enough to know that you will be beside us as we seek to do what you ask of us. Give us the desire to draw others into your service and the wisdom to witness to others of your boundless love. We give grateful thanks for your promise of eternal life.

**All:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!



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**"God Has Chosen Me"**  
**Words & Music by Bernadette Farrell**  
**(To be used with "Stewardship of Life: Discipleship, Grades 10-12)**

God has chosen me, God has chosen me  
To bring good news to the poor.  
God has chosen me, God has chosen me  
To bring new sight to those searching for light.  
God has chosen me, chosen me.

*Refrain*

And to tell the world that God's kingdom is near,  
To remove oppression and break down fear.  
Yes, God's time is near, God's time is near,  
God's time is near, God's time is near.

God has chosen me, God has chosen me  
To set alight a new fire.  
God has chosen me, God has chosen me  
To bring to birth a new kingdom on earth.  
God has chosen me, chosen me.

God is calling me, God is calling me  
In all whose cry is unheard.  
God is calling me, God is calling me  
To raise up the voice with no power or choice,  
God is calling me, calling me.

(Repeat refrain)

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**Reflection Questions:**

1. As a youth in today's society, whose "cry is unheard" and how am I responding to that cry?
2. How am I responding to the call to "bring to birth a new kingdom on earth"?
3. Who do I recognize as having a "voice with no power or choice" and how am I responding?
4. Who do I believe to be "searching for light" and how am I responding to God's call to be a light for all nations?



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## Stewards of Life: Discipleship Family Page

**The Holy Family models for us as Catholic Christians what it means to be disciples. Each member of the Holy Family was called in their own way for God's own purpose, just as we are each called, by name, for God's glory.**

Joseph did what God asked him to do. He took Mary as his wife and raised Jesus as his own. Even though he was afraid, he trusted in God's divine wisdom and allowed himself to be used to glorify God. Can we trust as much?

**Read Matthew 1:18-23 and Matthew 2:19-23 to learn more about Joseph's total trust in the Lord.**

Mary allowed God to use her as the vessel by which our savior would be brought into this world. She was but a meek, innocent child herself when an angel of the Lord appeared to her for the first time, asking her to be the mother of God. What would you do if an angel of the Lord appeared to you today and asked as much of you?

**Read Luke 1:46-55 and Luke 1:26-38 to be inspired by Mary's total devotion to the Lord.**

Jesus knew his fate even before he came down from heaven, but yet he trusted the Father's love and fulfilled the prophets' words. Like us, Jesus felt pain and sorrow, anger and frustration. But he also experienced the great joy of his resurrection! When we place our total trust in the Lord, we too will experience this great joy and will be raised just as Jesus was raised! Can we resist the temptation to sin as Jesus resisted Satan in the desert, trusting that God will give us all that we need?

**Read John 13:12-15; Luke 22:41-42; Luke 2:41-49; Matthew 4:1-11.**

1. Who can we, as a family, identify as a "present day" disciple and what qualities does this disciple have that mirrors the qualities of the Holy Family? (This "present day" disciple could be someone like our Holy Father, or it could be a friend, co-worker, family member).
2. What qualities do we, as a Catholic Christian family, share with the Holy Family?
3. What can we do as a Catholic Christian family to more fully become disciples of Christ?





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## Scripture Passages (To be used with "Stewardship of Life: Discipleship": Grades 10-12, Prayer Experience)

Sirach 35:4, 7-10

Appear not before the Lord, empty-handed, for all that you offer is in fulfillment of the precepts. In generous spirit pay homage to the Lord, be not sparing of freewill gifts. With each contribution show a cheerful countenance, and pay your tithes in a spirit of joy. Give to the Most High as he has given to you, generously, according to your means. For the Lord is one who always repays and he will give back to you sevenfold.

Matthew 6:19-21

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will be your heart.

Matthew 16:24-28

. . . whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me . . . What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct.

Mark 4:24-25

The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you, and still more will be given to you. To the one who has, more will be given, from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

Luke 12:48

Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.

1 Corinthians 3:7-9

Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters are equal, and each will receive wages in proportion to his labor . . . for we are God's co-workers.

1 Corinthians 10:31

. . . whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.



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**Scripture Passages**  
**(To be used with "Stewardship of Life: Discipleship":**  
**Grades 10-12, Prayer Experience)**  
**[continued]**

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.

Galatians 6:2,9-10

Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ. . . Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all . . .

1 Peter 4:8-10

. . . Let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of god's varied grace.

1 John 3:17-18

If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.



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## **Alternate Student Activities (To be used, if desired, with "Stewards of Discipleship") Grades 10-12**

### **Small Group Discussions on the Beatitudes** **(Each group will need a Bible.)**

Divide the class into groups of 3 or 4 each. Ask the students to look up the Beatitudes in their Bibles (Matthew 5:3-11). The catechist may want to "set the scene" for the students.

Assign each group one of the Beatitudes and ask them to paraphrase it, using their own words. Then, instruct the groups to discuss and conclude how they are living their assigned Beatitude as a youth in today's society.

Give the groups approximately 10 minutes to come to their conclusions. Return together as an entire group and review and discuss the students' conclusions.

Summarize using any of the following comments:

- The Beatitudes provide for us a "prescription" for Christian discipleship.
- They encourage us to empty ourselves in order to be filled up with the love and light of the Lord.
- They encourage us to show mercy and compassion to those who may be difficult to love.
- They ask us to be "peacemakers" and to strive for unity and reconciliation in all things.
- They ask us to put away our pride and to be grateful for the gifts of this life.
- They even ask us to endure persecution for the sake of the kingdom of God and assure us that we will be richly rewarded.

