

Teach children about stewardship

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When you hear the word stewardship, what goes through your head? Better yet, what goes through the minds of your children when they hear the word stewardship? Do they know what it means?

Stewardship starts at home. Everything we have, our time, talents and treasures, come from God. One way we should honor Him is by sharing our gifts with others. Kids may not always listen, but they see everything you do. We need to let others see us being joyful and generous with our God-given gifts.

So where do we start? Read the Bible together!

Give

- regularly (I Corinthians 16:2)
- secretly (Matthew 6:1-2)
- sacrificially (Luke 21:1-4)
- based on your earnings (I Corinthians 16:2)
- purposefully (II Corinthians 9:7)
- cheerfully (II Corinthians 9:7)
- with God's priorities in mind (Matthew 6:19-21)

"We need to let others see us being joyful and generous with our God-given gifts."

- generously (Luke 6:38, II Corinthians 9:6)

One simple and effective hands-on approach to teaching kids about financial giving is by using three jars.

Create three containers to hold money. You can use jars, cans, envelopes, coin purses, boxes—anything really. Let your kids decorate and label them.

Each should be labeled as follows:

Jar 1: Save

The save jar is to put money away for the future. Talk about saving for



college and saving for rainy days.

Jar 2: Give

This jar is for giving to others. Give to church, community

projects, or your own project that helps someone. The important thing is for this jar to be used to give back to others in ways that make a difference.

Jar 3: Spend

This spend jar is for buying things you want. Encourage kids to work hard and earn what they want. Also encourage thinking before you spend. Is that really what you want or need? Is this item worth it?

Each time your child receives money (allowance, extra chores, gifts, etc) they divide their money into these three jars. You decide what ratio to teach. At our house we like this ratio: Save 20 percent, Give 10 percent (tithing), and Spend the rest. You will be teaching the responsibility of saving, that hard work pays off, and the joy of giving and helping others!



Men's Retreat

One Year to Live

Feb. 7-9, 2014

Camp Ewalu, Strawberry Point

Those planning to attend the "One Year to Live" Men's Retreat should register by Tuesday, Jan. 7, for the discounted rate of \$175. The cost

after that date is \$190.

This weekend retreat is an opportunity for men of all ages to rethink how they set their priorities. The retreat centers on small group discussions led by men who have been to previous OYTL retreats and have rediscovered their faith in Christ. Men will leave the retreat with a new mission statement for

life and a plan centered on how they would live their lives if they had only one year to live.

All men are invited to attend the One Year to Live Retreat at Camp Ewalu, Strawberry Point, Feb. 7-9. To learn more or to download a registration brochure, visit www.neiasynod.org/mens_ministry.