

One of the things I feel strongly about is that parishes should have Stewardship Ministry Teams that meet monthly throughout the year. And once those Stewardship Ministry Teams are formed, I believe they should begin each monthly meeting with prayer and Bible Study. I'm often asked for suggested Bible Study texts. What appears below is a suggested list:

### *Stewardship Bible Study Texts*

Genesis 1:27-28	We are made in God's image
Psalms 30	The world belongs to the Lord and all that is in it
Malachi 3:7-12	Robbing God
Matthew 3:1-12	What does our baptism mean for us as stewards?
Matthew 5:1-12	The Beatitudes and stewardship
Matthew 6:7-14	Praying the prayer Jesus taught us as stewards
Matthew 25:14-30	The Parable of the Talents
Mark 4:21-25	A Lamp on a Stand
Mark 10:17-25	The Rich Young Man
Mark 12:41-44	The Widow's Offering
Luke 12:13-34	The Parable of the Rich Fool
Luke 12:22-34	Where is your heart?
Luke 15:1-10	The Parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin
Luke 15:11-32	The Parable of the Lost Son
Luke 18:9-14	The Pharisee and the Tax Collector
Luke 18:18-27	The Rich Young Ruler
Luke 19:1-10	Zacchaeus
Luke 5:1-11, John 21:1-14	Two Fishing Stories
John 6:1-13	The Feeding of the 5,000
Colossians 3:12-17	Paul's guidance for living lives as God's Children
1 Peter 4:7-11	Stewards of the manifold grace of God
1 Timothy 6: 17-19	Be rich in good works
1 Corinthians 4:1	God loves a cheerful giver.

### Suggested Bible Study Format

Opening Prayer – perhaps a prayer of thanksgiving or a prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to be present during the meeting and particularly the engaging scripture.

Ask someone to read the passage the first time.

*Group Conversation: What word, phrase, idea, or sentence stands out for you?*

Ask a different person to read it a second time, perhaps from a different bible translation.

*Group Conversation: What is God/Jesus/this passage saying to you?*

Ask a third person to read it, perhaps from yet another bible translation.

*Group Conversation: What is God/ Jesus/this passage calling you to do?*

Close with prayer for each person ... that each of may become more and more the faithful, loving, generous stewards God calls us to be ... that each of us may indeed respond to what God is calling us to do and to be.

*This list was compiled with the assistance of The Rev. Angela Emerson, Minister for Stewardship Development, Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, and The Rev. Laurel Johnston, Program Officer for Stewardship, The Episcopal Church Center*

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