



PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP:

**Applying Biblical Principles
to Everyday Life**

LEARNER GUIDE | SESSION 2

Managing Money and More



SESSION IN A SENTENCE God's people are commanded to manage more than the money He provides us through our work.

BIBLE BACKGROUND Malachi is the last book in the Old Testament. This book marked the end of God speaking through prophets, and the start of 400 years of silence. God would not speak to His people again until Christ began His ministry. Malachi challenged God's people to reflect upon their relationship with Him, and to make the needed changes. God's people were to become better managers of the resources God had provided them, which included money – and more.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TODAY A steward is a manager, not an owner. God is the owner of everything, and the items in our possession belong to Him. When we come to understand that He is the owner, we begin to understand the serious nature of being wise managers. We often believe that managing (stewarding) is primarily focused on how we spend the money we have. This passage, however, shows us that we are to manage more than just our financial resources. God calls us to manage a variety of things under our control – things that ultimately belong to Him.

MALACHI 3:7-12

⁷ “Since the days of your ancestors, you have turned from my statutes; you have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of Armies. Yet you ask, “How can we return?” ⁸ “Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!” “How do we rob you?” you ask. “By not making the payments of the tenth and the contributions. ⁹ You are suffering under a curse, yet you—the whole nation—are still robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this way,” says the LORD of Armies. “See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure. ¹¹ I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not ruin the produce of your land and your vine in your field will not fail to produce fruit,” says the LORD of Armies. ¹² “Then all the nations will consider you fortunate, for you will be a delightful land,” says the LORD of Armies.

POINT 1: WE MANAGE OUR

WITH GOD

(v.3)

POINT 3: WE MANAGE HIS

(vv.10-12)

POINT 2: WE MANAGE OUR

RESOURCES

(vv.8-9)

MY NEXT STEPS

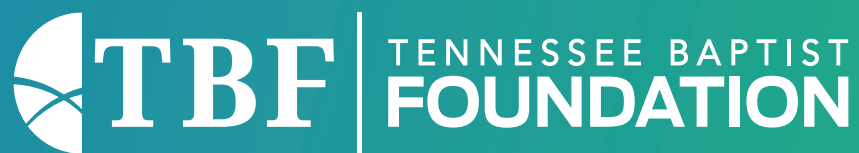
- 1. Start or expand your giving** – Giving can be a scary proposition. God knows this and invites us to test Him on this. Take time this week to reflect upon your personal giving. Ask God to show you ways in which you can begin to give for the first time or even expand your giving. Tell Him that you want to be a faithful steward of His financial resources and ask Him for the faith needed to walk in obedience.
- 2. Share your story** – When did God bless you in an extraordinary way, and who can you share this story with? Stewarding His blessings can simply be giving Him the credit that only He deserves. When we share our story of God's goodness during a difficult time, we give Him all the credit as we point people to Him. Ask God to show you someone you can encourage this week with His story of goodness and blessing in your life.
- 3. Return to God** – The children of Israel had turned from God's statutes, and we can find ourselves doing the same thing. Take time this week to ask God to show you where you have strayed from Him. As He graciously reveals things in your life that need to change, ask Him to give you the faith needed to walk in obedience. Pray for forgiveness, and the strength to do the things that please Him going forward.

MY GROUP'S PRAYER REQUESTS



SERMON NOTES

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TODAY'S PLANS.
TOMORROW'S IMPACT.

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