

# **Christian Stewardship**

Prepared for Timothy Leadership Training by

Dennis Hoekstra  
with Harold Kallemeyn



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This manual is a condensed version of a longer manual by the same author. Permission is granted to photocopy this manual. The best results will be obtained when **all** the lessons in the manual are studied and discussed.

## **INTRODUCTION TO TIMOTHY LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

In 1997 a team of Christian educators from Africa, Europe, and North America was formed to meet two challenges. The first was to respond to an urgent call for entrance-level pastoral training coming from thousands of protestant evangelists and lay pastors throughout Africa. The second was to promote economic sustainability within the parishes and communities they serve.

The team developed a training program and field-tested it from 1998-2004 in ten English and French-speaking African countries. (Burkina Faso, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia) Week-long workshops were held with pastor-trainers from Anglican, Assembly of God, and other denominations as well as with leaders from independent churches. Between the workshops, the participants engaged their evangelists and lay leaders in the same training they had received. Training included pastoral care, Christian education, preaching, stewardship, and the relationship between work and worship.

Those who put this training into practice saw significant progress in their ministries and churches.

### **One Example from Nairobi, Kenya**

In 1998 an Anglican pastor, Charles Muturi, was transferred by his bishop to the Kangemi parish, located in one of the most impoverished neighborhoods of Nairobi. At that time the church averaged 375 worshippers each Sunday. The annual church budget was 800,000 Kenya shillings, much of it raised through harambees (fund-raising events).

That year Pastor Muturi participated in the first Timothy training workshop. In 1999 he began to multiply what he had learned by training the evangelists and lay leaders of his parish. By 2004, the number of Sunday worshippers had increased from 375 to over 1500.

The year ending December 31, 2000, parish giving totalled 3,523,955 shillings, according to the audited report. All funds were raised by voluntary offerings. No more harambees. When all back salaries had been paid, the parish had a balance of 1,509,399 Ksh. Offerings totalled over 5.1 million shillings in 2003: Membership and church attendance continued to grow.

With the additional funds schools were started, scholarships were provided for destitute children, and low-cost housing for poor people was built. The church supports missionaries in other areas of Kenya; for example, in the Rafiki HIV/AIDS orphanage.

Pastor Muturi says, "We no longer accept outside subsidies. We consider financial dependency to be a sickness in the church."

*May God bless you as you benefit from this same training for His glory!*

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## HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

This manual was written to help train leaders. It is different from other books. It was not written just to be read. It should be used in a group. Participants should have their own copy of the manual.

If possible, participants should also receive the translation of the manual in their language. This will save much time during the lesson when the group is together. If that is not possible, time should be given to participants during the lesson to write down the translation.

To learn from this manual, it is important for participants to speak together and to listen carefully to each another. Four steps should be followed. All four steps are necessary for good learning.

1. **Report.** At the beginning of each lesson (except for the first lesson) each participant presents an action plan report.
2. **Discover.** During each lesson section participants discover new ideas.
3. **Explore.** These ideas are then explored in two ways: through personal reflection and through group discussion. Group discussion teaches participants to listen to each other, to present their ideas to the group and to carefully evaluate what is discussed.
4. **Plan.** At the end of each lesson, all participants make plans to practice what they have learned. They report on how they put their plan into action at the beginning of the following lesson.

**If this is the first time your group is using a Timothy Leadership Training manual**, spend your first session reading and discussing the first lesson on action plans. During your second session together you will begin Lesson 2.

## **A REMINDER TO THE TRAINER**

You may be tempted to stand in front of the group you are teaching, read aloud what is in the manual and then talk about it for a few minutes before going on to the next section. That would be a mistake, since the participants will not learn well. They will learn well only if they can take time to talk together about what they are learning and then make good action plans.

When the time comes for you to train others, it will be obvious that you are a **good trainer** because you are:

- **Putting into practice** what is taught in the manuals. For example, you are making regular visits and you are a good listener.
- **Seeing measurable changes** take place in your church and community.
- **Enthusied and convinced** that the benefits of your ministry can be multiplied many times over through training others.

Your experience and enthusiasm will also enable those you train to become, in time, good trainers themselves.

## **SEQUENCE TO FOLLOW**

Timothy Leadership training has been most effective when the manuals are taught in the following order:

1. Caring for God's People
2. Christian Stewardship

After these two manuals, you may choose whatever order the group desires:

- Biblical Preaching
- Work and Worship
- Teaching the Christian Faith

## **BEING PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINERS NETWORK**

If you become a Timothy trainer, we invite you to contact the International Coordination Team at [timothyinstitute@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:timothyinstitute@calvinseminary.edu) to receive the quarterly information bulletin. This bulletin—sent via e-mail—includes news and comments from trainers throughout Anglophone and francophone Africa.



## Lesson 1

# ACTION PLANS

Throughout this manual, you will make an action plan at the end of each lesson.

*Why is it important to plan? Matthew 7:24-27*

*What is God's response to those who won't risk making plans? Matthew 25:14-30*

### 1. Good Intentions

Good intentions are important. For example, I may have a good intention to visit my church members regularly.

*Give some other examples of good intentions.*

*What happens to many of our good intentions?*

### 2. Action plans

Action plans are more than good intentions. They help us to be God's faithful servants. Action plans describe a) **specific activities** and b) **specific intended results**. They help us achieve what we want to do and what we know we should do.

*How do you say "specific activities" and "specific intended results" in your language?*

### 3. **Specific activities**

Good action plans answer five questions:

**What** exactly will I do?

**When** will I do it?

**How** will I do it?

For example:

I will make three crisis visits next week.

**(What)**

I will make one visit on Wednesday night and two on Sunday afternoon. **(When)**

I will make a special effort to listen carefully during each visit. **(How)**

When preparing an action plan, we also ask two kinds of reflection questions:

Is this **realistic**? For example, can I make the three visits next week with all the other things I have to do? (Luke 14:28-30)

Is this **faithful** to God's will? For example, will I make these visits to be with my friends, or to minister to those in need even if they are not my friends? (Luke 14:12-14)

## IN SUMMARY

A good action plan *activity* is **SMART**  
**SPECIFIC**. It describes specifically what I will do,  
**MEASURABLE**. I will be able to tell whether it was done or not,  
**APPROPRIATE**. It is in line with God's will,  
**REALISTIC**. It takes into account my limitations and availability,  
**TIMEBOUND**. It mentions an exact period of time

### 4. **Intended results**

- ✓ Action plans also include **intended results** or *outcomes*.  
**Intended results** answer the question, “**Why** do I plan to do this activity?”

We can answer this “Why?” question in several **general** ways:

- “I am doing this to be faithful to God and to his calling,” or
- “I am doing this to strengthen the faith of the people I visit,”
- “I am doing this so that our church will grow,” or
- “I am doing this to train someone else in visitation ministry.”

These are all good **general** responses of the “Why?” question.

- ✓ Throughout the centuries, good church leaders have also answered the “Why” question in specific ways. They have set **specific goals**, also called **intended results** for their ministry. These goals have helped

them set priorities and be focused in their activities and in their prayers.

*What was one of Jesus' **intended results** when he met the disciples after the resurrection in John 21:1-21?*

*What was one of Paul's **intended results** for the Ephesian Christians described in Acts 20:27? What were two of the activities he used to meet that goal in Acts 20:20?*

- ✓ Jesus and the apostle Paul had **intentional** ministries. They didn't do what they did just to get things done, but because they wanted to accomplish an **intended result**. They thought about the future. They imagined how God could advance His Kingdom in the future. Then, with God's strength, they acted to make it happen.

*Action plans help us to be like Jesus and the apostle Paul, with intentional ministries. Of course, we know that we will never be able to see **all** the results of our work. Only God knows all the results of our activities.*

A good action plan *intended result* is also

**S M A R T**

**SPECIFIC.** It describes specifically what I expect will happen because of what I will do.

**MEASURABLE.** I will be able to tell whether it happened or not.

**APPROPRIATE.** It is in line with God's will.

**REALISTIC.** It takes into account the limitations and possibilities of God's people.

**TIMEBOUND.** It mentions an exact period of time.

In an action plan, the **activity** refers to what **you** will do. The **intended result** is what you expect to happen in the **church** or the **community**. Both of them need to be **S M A R T**.

Here are some examples of action plans:

### **Example 1**

I will make three visits next week, one on Wednesday evening and two on Sunday afternoon. I will make an effort to listen patiently and carefully to those I visit (activity) so that the people I visit will make good decisions about how to face their problems.(result)  
*Is this a well written action plan? Is it S M A R T?*

### **Example 2**

So that giving in our church will increase by 10% next month (result), I will preach three sermons on Christian stewardship this month and set an example through my own faithful giving (two activities.)  
*Is this a well written action plan? Is it S M A R T?*

### **Example 3**

Imagine that your church wants to better comfort those who are suffering.

This is a poorly written activity:

“I plan to make more visits.”

*Why is this a poorly written activity? Is it S M A R T?*

This is a well written activity:

“Every Thursday afternoon and evening I will visit 3 church families.”

*Why is this a well-written activity? Is it S M A R T?*

This is a poorly written result:

“The fellowship of our church will grow.”

*Why is this a poorly written activity? Is it S M A R T?*

This is a well-written result:

“By the end of six months of visiting, our church attendance will grow by 10% and the number of members involved in the ministry of the church by 15%.”

Note: Sometimes we write the activity before the result. Sometimes we write the result before the activity.

#### **Example 4**

Imagine that we wish our church members to practice better stewardship.

*Is this a well written result?*

“Our church members should increase their gifts and offerings.”

*Is this is a well written result?*

“During the 12 months of this year, the gifts and offerings of our church will increase 10% more than last year.”

*Is this a well written activity?*

“I will preach more often on subjects related to stewardship.”

*Is this a well written activity?*

“I will preach 7 sermons on each of the 7 keys to good stewardship during 7 Sunday’s of the month of March and April.”

### Example 5

In your group, give an example of a poorly written action plan and an example of a well-written action plan.

## **5. Five-Step Action Plan Reporting**

You will make an action plan at the end of each lesson. At the beginning of each lesson, **each participant** will report on his or her action plan written during the last meeting. Action plan reports have five parts:

- 1: Activity report: *Did I do what I said I would do?*
- 2: Result report: *Was the result what I expected?*
- 3: *What **obstacles (problems)** did I encounter?*
- 4: *How can I **overcome** those problems before the next lesson?*
- 5: **Thank God** for progress made and **pray** for the challenges facing each one.

After finishing this manual, we encourage you to form an action plan ministry team that continues to meet together regularly.

## Lesson 2

### Stewardship in the Bible

**1. The Great Commission.** Read together Matthew 28:16-19.

*What did Jesus command his disciples to do?*

*What did Jesus command his disciples to teach?*

*What are some of the things Jesus taught?*

*Make a list together of some things Jesus taught.*

**2. Jesus' Parables.** Read together Luke 10:30-37; 12:16-21; 12:42-48; 15:4-6; and 19:12-27.

*How many of these parables talk about the good use of money and material things?*

*Can you think of any of Jesus' parables that **don't** talk about money and material things?*

**3. God wants us to take good care of our material things.** About 500 verses in the Bible talk about prayer. About 500 verses talk about faith. Over 2000 verses talk about our material possessions.

*What material things has God given you? Make a list together.*

*Give examples of the good use of material things.*

*Give examples of the bad use of material things.*

**4. Generosity.** God also wants his children to learn to share willingly what they have with others. Ephesians 4:28, Hebrews 13:5,16

*Do you know a generous person?*

*What is the difference between a generous person and one who is not generous?*

*Why does God want his people to be generous?*

## **5. Five Principles of Christian Giving.**

Read together 1 Corinthians 16:1-3

*Who should give? (v.2)*

*How often should Christians give? (v.2)*

*How much should Christians give? (v.2)*

*How should money be handled when we give together? What did Paul tell the Corinthian church to do so that **honesty, transparency and accountability** would be practiced?(v.3)*

*To whom should we give? (v.1) Read also 2 Corinthians 9:1,2 Who is in need in your church?*

## **6. Giving in your church**

*What happens when these five principles are not practiced?*

*Which principles are taught and practiced in your church?*

*Which principle is not being practiced very well in your church?*

*Make of the list of reasons why that principle is not being practiced well.*

## **7. Action Plan**

*Identify one or two activities you will do to help the church practice the principle identified in #6 above.*

*By what date will you do this?*

*What will likely be the result when you do this?*

## Lesson 3

### Barriers to Good Stewardship

**1. Action Plan reporting.** In small groups or in the larger group, each participant reports on his action plan. Please follow all 5 steps of reporting at the end of Lesson 1, page 10. If anyone did not accomplish their action plan, identify the obstacles that prevented this. Share ideas about how these obstacles can be overcome before Lesson 4.

**2. Discussion groups.** Divide into six discussion groups. Appoint a reporter for each group. Read together the texts assigned to your group. Are these barriers present in your church or family? Decide together on one thing you can do to overcome each barrier. Prepare to report to the larger group.

#### Group 1

When church leaders don't teach that daily work is important and that it glorifies God. Genesis 1:28, 2:15

When pastors don't help church members find productive work. Exodus 23:12, 1 Corinthians 4:12, 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; 5:12, 2 Thessalonians 3:10, 1 Timothy 5:3-8, Titus 3:14

When pastors give the impression that their own work is more important than the ordinary tasks of others. 1 Corinthians 12:21-26, James 2:1-5, Zechariah 14:9,20-21

## **Group 2**

When the church seems more interested in getting people's money than helping them develop their talents and being productive. 1 Peter 5:2, Ephesians 4:11-13

When pastors present offerings as a burden rather than an opportunity to thank God. Deuteronomy 16:9-17, Psalm 50:9-10, 14-15, Matthew 10:8, 2 Corinthians 9:7

When we don't give God the "first-fruits" (the best). Genesis 4:2-5 and Hebrews 11:4, Leviticus 27:30-33, Deuteronomy 26:2-3,10

## **Group 3**

When we think that some Christians can't give. Exodus 23:15-16; 34:20

When we think that we can belong to God without giving to God. 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

When we don't do anything to help our children and our neighbors eat well. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, James 1:27, Matthew 25:31-46

## **Group 4**

When we don't teach that tithes and offerings are important tests of our faith. Malachi 3:8-10, Matthew 6:31-33, Psalm 37:25-26

When we don't teach that everyone should give *according to his own means*. Deuteronomy 16:17, Luke 12:48, 1 Corinthians 16:1,2

When we don't teach that God blesses those who give generously. Malachi 3:7-10, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

**Group 5**

When the church budget is not prepared by church members together. When tithes and offerings are not carefully counted, recorded and reported. 1 Corinthians 16:3, 2 Corinthians 8:18-20

When each church member is not taught to plan his regular offerings. 1 Corinthians 16:2

When pastors don't talk about the temptation not to be generous. Leviticus 27:30-33, Acts 4:34-54

**Group 6**

When pastors do not set a good example of generosity by their own personal giving. Numbers 18:25-29, 1 Corinthians 4:12,16-17; 9:9-12, Philippians 4:9, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10

When Christians don't work six days each week and become dependent on others. Genesis 1:27-28, 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

**3.** Back together in the main group, each reporter tells the group in five minutes or less, what they learned together. The main group leader asks someone to record what is said.

**4. Action Plan**

*Describe one thing that you will do personally before Lesson 4 to overcome one of these barriers. What difference would it make if you do this? Write down (1) what you will do (the activity) and (2) the difference it should make (the intended result). Share this with at least one other person in the group. Take time to pray for each other before the end of the lesson.*

Activity \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Intended Result**

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## Lesson 4

### Bible Teaching on Stewardship I

**1. Action Plan reporting.** Please follow the 5 steps of reporting at the end of Lesson 1, page 10. If anyone did not accomplish their action plan, identify the obstacles that prevented this. Share ideas about how these obstacles can be overcome before Lesson 5.

### 2. Why did God create human beings?

Read Genesis 1:26-30

Genesis 1 and 2 teach that we were created for three main reasons:

- (1) to live in a good relationship with God and with others
- (2) to multiply
- (3) to take care of the earth.

Taking care of the earth means to manage the resources of the world. When we come into a good relationship with God through Jesus-Christ, God expects us to honor him by taking good care of the earth.

*How did God take care of the earth after he had created it? Genesis 2:8*

*What did God tell Adam and Eve to do to take good care of the earth?*

*What did God tell Noah to do to take good care of the earth? Genesis 9:1-3*

*How did God promise to take care of the earth after the flood? Genesis 8:21-22; 9:9-17*

## God's Seven Gifts: The Seven T's

### TIME

**3. Time.** God gives us the hours, the days, the weeks and the years of our lives as gifts to be used well. Psalm 90:12, John 9:4, Colossians 4:5, Galatians 6:10.

*Into what two parts did God divide the seven days of creation?*

*How does work honor God? How does rest honor God?*

*Who is sad when we waste the gift of time? Give examples of wasted time.*

Here are some ways to honor God and the gift of time he has given us:

- Good planning
- Energetic work
- Promptness
- Taking time to help and encourage others

*Name one thing you can do to please God by using your time better.*

### TALENTS

**4. Talents.** Proverbs 22:6, Matthew 25:14-30, Romans 12:6, Ephesians 4:7

*Who has received talents or gifts according to these Bible texts?*

*As church leader, how can you help the members of your church discover their spiritual gifts and practice them?*

Here are some ways to honor God and the talents he gives us.

- Promote education for all children so that they can be productive throughout their lives.

- Train youth to use their talents for God.
- Train and encourage members of the church to use their gifts to serve God and others.
- Train leaders for ministry in the church.

*Name one thing that you can do to promote the talents and gifts of others.*

## **TEMPLE**

### **5. Temple.**

God has given us each the gift of a body. We honor him when we take good care of it. We take care of our body by avoiding attitudes and actions that do not please God. We honor God with our bodies when we serve him and others.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20, 2 Corinthians 6:16-18, Romans 12:1,2, James 5:14

*Make a list of ways in which our bodies can dishonor God.*

*Make a list of ways to serve God and serve others with our bodies.*

Here are some ways to take care of our bodies so that they can be used to serve God and others:

- Get proper exercise,
- Insure that growing children eat a balanced diet,
- Show children how to avoid sickness and disease,
- Keep homes and neighborhoods clean.

*Name one thing that you can do to honor God by taking good care of your body.*

## 6. Action plan

*Describe one thing that you will do, before Lesson 6, to honor the time, the talents or the temple that God has given you. What difference will it make if you do this? Describe your **activity** and the difference this should make (the **intended result**) and share it with least one other person in the group. Take time to pray for each other before the end of the lesson.*

Activity \_\_\_\_\_

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Intended Result

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## Lesson 5

### Bible Teaching on Stewardship II

**1. Action Plan reporting.** In small groups or in the larger group report on what you did to use your time, talents, or temple differently. Please follow all 5 steps of reporting at the end of Lesson 1, page 10.

#### THE EARTH AND ITS TERRAIN

**2. God entrusted the earth to Adam and Eve.** He expected them to take care of it. Genesis 1:27-30

*Make a list of the ways in which the earth may not be used well in your area.*

- Destroying forests without replanting the trees.
- Leaving plastic bags on the ground.
- Not providing good garbage and sewage disposal.

*What else can you do to help change that?  
Are the children in your church taught to take good care of the earth?*

God told Adam and Eve that what he created was *good to look at* **and** *good to eat*. (Genesis 2:9) God created us to take care of the earth so that it can produce things that are beautiful and are useful.

*What can you do to make your village, your neighborhood or your district a place where God is honored because the earth is productive and beautiful?*

During the creation, God **worked the earth** three times. (Genesis 2:19; 2:7 and 2:8) This shows that working the earth is an honorable task.

*What can you do to demonstrate that working the earth is an important part of obeying God?*

In many countries, it is important for pastors and other church leaders to plant and tend their own gardens or fields. Some raise animals like chickens or goats. They provide for their families and also show by their example how to honor the earth. Because of their good example, people in their villages and districts now eat much better.

*What can you and your family do to show that working the earth and making it productive and beautiful is an important part of obeying God?*

## **TASKS**

### **3. Tasks.**

*Is work a good thing or a bad thing?*

*Why did work become difficult? Genesis 3:17-19*

*Why is work an important part of our Christian life? Genesis 1:26, Exodus 20:8-11*

*Make a list of the tasks you accomplish each week.*

*Make a list of the tasks which your church members accomplish. What can you do to encourage them, including the children, in their work?*

## TREASURES

### 4. Treasures.

Treasures are the things of material value which God entrusts to us. Psalm 24:1; Malachi 3:10; Matthew 25:14-30.

*Make a list of the material treasures God has entrusted you.*

*Can treasures be multiplied? Matthew 25:16*

*Can someone share an experience of multiplying their treasure? For example, in commerce or in agricultural work?*

God expects us to use our treasures to care for our needs and our family needs. 1 Timothy 5:8

God expects us to use our treasures to help the poor. Proverbs 11:24, Isaiah 58:9-11, Ephesians 4:28

God expects us to use our treasures to support His church and kingdom. Matthew 6:33

The church must give guidance and encouragement to young people so that they will learn to value their work and to use their treasures well.

*What can you do to help children and young people learn to use what they have in a responsible way?*

### 6. Action plan

*Describe one thing that you will do, before Lesson 6, to honor the earth, the tasks God has given you or your treasures? Describe your **activity** and the **difference** this should make (the **intended result**) and share it with least one other person in the group. Take time to pray for each other.*

Activity\_\_\_\_\_

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**Intended Result**

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## Lesson 6

### Bible Teaching on Stewardship III

- 1. Action Plan reporting.** What did you do since Lesson 5 to honor the earth, your tasks or your treasure? What happened because of what you did? What difference did it make? (intended result) Please follow the 5 steps of reporting at the end of Lesson 1, page 10.

### TRANSMISSION

- 2. Transmission.** God entrusts us with children.

They are *treasures* from God. Psalm 127:3, Psalm 128:5,6

They are also part of our *tasks*. Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalm 78:1-7, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4

*As a church leader, name one thing that you can do to help parents raise their children to be responsible and productive Christians.*

### TRIBULATIONS

- 3. Tribulations.** No matter how faithful we are in our work and how much God blesses us, we are also called to suffer. Our difficulties and tribulations do not necessarily mean that our faith is weak or that God is punishing us. God uses our difficulties to help us grow in faith. Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 1:5-7, Philippians 3:10, 2 Timothy 4:5, 1 Peter 1:5-7; 4:19

*Have you ever heard someone say that if we suffer it is certainly because God is punishing us for our sin? Job's friends*

*thought this, but God did not agree with them. Job 42:7, 8*

*How could you answer someone who says that if we are faithful to God, we will always be blessed by good health and material prosperity?*

#### **4. Action plan**

*Describe one thing that you will do differently, before lesson five, to help educate and train the children in your church. Describe your **activity** and the difference this should make (the **intended result**) and share it with least one other person in the group. Take time to pray for each other.*

Activity \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Intended Result  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 7

### Giving for Wrong Reasons

**1. Action Plan reporting.** What did you do since Lesson 6 to help educate and train the children in your church? What happened because of what you did? What difference did it make? (intended result) Please follow the 5 steps of reporting at the end of Lesson 1, page 10.

**2. Discussion groups.** Divide into five discussion groups. Appoint a reporter for each group. Read together the texts assigned to your group. Have you ever heard these wrong reasons for giving? What can you do to resist these dangers? Prepare to report to the larger group.

#### Five Wrong Reasons for Giving

- (1) “God will make you rich and healthy if you have faith and give to the church”  
Psalm 9:9; 73:3,13-14; 116:3-4; Micah 7:1, Job 5:7; 14:1, 2 Corinthians 1:1-5, Hebrews 11:36-39; 12:4-8
- (2) “You can earn your salvation if you give to the church” (This teaching was common before the time of the Protestant Reformation.)  
Micah 6:6-8, Romans 11:6, Ephesians 2:4-8, Romans 3:21-31

- (3) Sometimes people will give because they want to be admired by others or because they want to become influential in the church.

James 2:1-6, Matthew 6:1-4, Luke 18:9-14

- (4) Sometimes people will give because they feel guilty.

Matthew 23:23, Romans 6:14-15, 2 Corinthians 9:7

- (5) Sometimes the church is tempted to use almost all of their gifts and offerings for themselves, especially to build church buildings and pastor's houses.

Acts 4:34-35; 6:1-3, James 1:27, Deuteronomy 15:4-5, Proverbs 22:9; 29:7 ; 31 :9, Amos 8 :4-6, Matthew 23 :23 ; 25 :31-46, 1 Timothy 6 :17-19, James 2 :14-17

**3.** Back together in the main group, each reporter tells the group in five minutes or less, what they learned together. The main group leader asks someone to record what is said.

#### **4. Saying “thank you” to God for his generosity.**

*What are some of the things God has given you as his creature and as his child?*

Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-7 and 1Corinthians 9:6-15. Each time you find the word “grace” in the text, say the word “giving”.

*How do these texts help us understand how God want us to give?*

## 5. Action plan

*Describe one thing that you will do personally before Lesson 8 to teach those in your church to say “thank you” to God through their generosity. What difference should it make if you do this? Write down (1) what you will do (the activity) and (2) the difference it should make (the intended result). Share this with at least one other person in the group. Take time to pray for each other before the end of the lesson.*

Activity \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Intended Result  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Lesson 8

### Developing Good Stewardship

**1. Action Plan reporting.** What did you do since Lesson 7 to promote grateful generosity in your church? What difference did it make? (intended result) Please report using the 5 steps at the end of Lesson 1, page 10.

### 2. Eight steps to developing good stewardship

(1) **Teach** stewardship (the 7 T's) to children, youth and adults.

*What can you do to help children learn to practice the seven T's of good stewardship?*

(2) Church leaders are good **examples**. They practice the seven T's of Christian stewardship.

*What will you do better to be a good example?*

(3) **Prepare** the annual church **budget** in discussion with all church members.

*How will you prepare your next annual church budget?*

(4) **Present** this annual **budget** to the whole church for approval.

*When is the best time to bring the church together to approve or revise the proposed budget?*

- (5) **Report** to the church how the money received will be counted and kept.  
*Do your church members know who keeps the money and accounts for it?*
- (6) **Report** monthly expenses to the whole church.  
*Who reports how gifts and offerings are used in your church?*
- (7) **Organize** an annual Thanksgiving Day to thank God for his generosity and for the generosity of his people.  
*How could an annual Thanksgiving Day promote good stewardship in your church?*
- (8) Make an **annual**, written financial **report** and make it available for anyone who wants to read it.  
*Who are the two or three people who will make the annual, written financial report for your church? Can you get someone from outside your church to verify this report?*

### **3. Action plan**

Identify which activities you need in your Action Plan :

1. **Action Plan** for Step 3 above: “Prepare the church budget.”

Activities:

*Who will do this?*

*By when will they complete it?*

*When will it be presented to the whole church for approval?*

What will be the Intended Result when you do this?

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2. Which activities do you need to begin reporting to the church? How much was received and how was it spent? See #5 above.

Activities

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Intended Result

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## Lesson 9

### Making a Six-Month Action Plan

**1. Action Plan reporting.** Report using the 5 steps from Lesson 1, page 10.

**2. Congratulations!** You have completed a significant part of this TLT training manual. Now it is time, during the next six months, to practice and perfect what you have learned.

**3. An important question:**

*“How can this training make a difference in my family, my church and my community?”*

- Reflect silently on the phrase of our Lord’s Prayer: “May your Kingdom come”. Think about this question: *“How can God’s Kingdom be advanced in my family, my church and my community in the coming months through what I have learned in this workshop?”*
- After a time of personal reflection, share your thoughts together. *“In what ways can your family, your church (with its children, young people and adults) and your neighborhood be changed through your ministry—by God’s grace and the power of His Spirit—in the next six months?”*
- Pray together that God would guide and inspire each one.

**4. Write the Six-Month Action Plan**

**On a sheet of paper provided by the trainer:** Write an **intended result** which communicates one way in which your family, your church or your community can develop and change in the

next six months. Remember that the intended result is *S M A R T*.

Write one or more activities which describe what you will do to help achieve your intended result. Your activities should be related to what you have learned in this workshop. Remember that your activities must also be *S M A R T*. For example:

- preach 5 sermons on stewardship.
- monthly, inform the congregation how much was received and what bills were paid.
- train three elders to make ten visits each.

## **5. Sharing the Six-Month Action Plan**

In groups of three, each participant reads aloud his action plan so that the others can help improve it by asking *S M A R T* questions. Revise the action plans, if necessary.

All action plans are then placed on a table or posted so that the participants can walk around and read them all.

A second copy of each action plan is written and left with the trainer.

## **6. Commit each other to the Lord**

Pray together that God would bless these action plans.

Participants take their own copy home and hang it in a place where they can be reminded of it regularly.

## Lesson 10

### Final Lesson

About six months later, the trainer will convene a final lesson.

**1. Action plan reporting.** All action plans will again be placed on a table or posted. Each participant will present his plan to the group and report following the five steps on page 9.

**2. Your Testimony.** Write down the most significant changes which this training produced in your family, your church and your community

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(To the trainer: The TLT coordinating team will be pleased to receive a copy of these testimonies. They can be sent to [timothyleadershiptraining@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:timothyleadershiptraining@calvinseminary.edu)

3. After a time of prayer and thanksgiving, each participant will write another six-month action plan following Steps 4, 5 and 6 of Lesson 11.

### CONCLUSION

We encourage as many participants as possible to form an action plan ministry team that continues to meet together regularly.

### BLESSING

Go in the grace and knowledge and power of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is His Church that you serve.