



The Stewardship Lifestyle Seminar

Biblical Stewardship for Today, Tomorrow, & Eternity



Name: _____

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Where Financial Stewardship and Theology Meet

With Rev. Drew Gysi & Tim Russell, CFP®

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WELCOME!

Welcome to the Stewardship Lifestyle Seminar. We are so glad you are here! By participating in this seminar, you have started your journey toward becoming an even better steward. The Life Institute team is here to guide you on this journey. Our mission is to offer not just valuable information, but to provide you with practical applications to help you truly understand and create a lifestyle of Biblical stewardship over all that God has provided.

If you have any questions along the way, feel free to ask one of our team members for assistance. If you need any assistance at a later time, please feel free to contact us using the contact information on the bottom of this page.

ABOUT LIFE INSTITUTE

Life Institute exists to help Christians become even better stewards of all their assets. We do this by partnering with churches to create a culture of Biblical stewardship and establish a Biblical framework for everyday financial decisions. Life Institute has served churches and families around the world as a ministry of the Life Financial Group for over thirty-five years.

We are passionate about seeing churches succeed by helping them develop a healthy culture of Biblical financial stewardship. Life Institute comes alongside churches to help individuals address their external financial problems, but more importantly, their internal spiritual challenges as pertains to stewardship.



Founder Roy Russell, CFP® (left) and President Tim Russell, CFP® (right)

THE PURPOSE OF THE STEWARDSHIP LIFESTYLE SEMINAR

Without a proper understanding of Biblical stewardship, marriages, families, and churches across the United States and around the world are more likely to fail. As the Church, we must disciple believers in Biblical stewardship, not just in giving to the local church, but in all areas of life.

By God's grace, we strive to encourage and strengthen God's people and churches financially, teach how to apply Biblical priorities to finances, encourage generosity in both life and death, and bring financial and legal expertise to the local church.

Get in Touch!

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Igniting the Heart

Cultivating Biblical Stewardship in the Next Generation

WHAT IS BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP?

Biblical stewardship is caring for and managing everything that God has entrusted to us. The focus in this session will be teaching stewardship, as it relates to money and finances, to the next generation.

**“God has uniquely
designed the family to
teach and model a lifestyle
of Biblical stewardship to
the next generation.”
- Steve Virkler**

WHY TEACH BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP?

1. If we don't teach the next generation, someone else will.

- Children form their view of the world at a young age. A Barna Research Group study on Children Developing their Worldview (2003) found that:
 - › By age 2, a child's worldview is already starting to be developed.
 - › By age 9, a child's moral foundation is generally in place.
 - › By age 13, a child's worldview is practically set in stone.
- Without proper guidance, children will have a distorted view of what money is and how it should be used.

2. God's Word has much to say about money and stewardship.

- Money is mentioned directly over 800 times in the Bible and there are over 2,200 financial references. Of everything Jesus taught, 15% was on the topic of money and possessions.
- Matthew 6:24 *“No one can serve two masters.”* It is impossible to serve both God and money. One of these ‘masters’ will ultimately own the hearts of our children.

WHO IS GOING TO TEACH BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP?

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

The Family - God has uniquely designed the family to teach and model a lifestyle of Biblical stewardship to the next generation. To effectively teach the next generation, we need to be aware, proactive, and intentional.

1. Be Aware of the Competition

Three things of which to be aware:

- **The enemy.** We’re in a battle every day! There is a lot of competition for our children’s hearts. It comes from sources like advertisements, friends, school teachers, and ultimately Satan.

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

- **Worldviews in conflict.** There are two worldviews that are constantly competing for our lifestyle choices and the hearts and minds of our children.

Secular Worldview - Seeing and understanding the world through the lens of CULTURE.

Biblical Worldview - Seeing and understanding the world through the lens of SCRIPTURE.

A Biblical worldview of stewardship is understanding that:

- › God owns it all. We own nothing.
- › We are stewards of what he has entrusted to us, not owners.
- › The choices we make expose our stewardship priorities and our worldview.
- **Responsibility and Opportunity.** A Biblical worldview of stewardship gets diminished when worldly influences take precedence over what we teach and model (Luke 12:15, Mark 4:19). We are entrusted with a critical responsibility and exciting opportunity to help our children develop their Biblical worldview so that they might live out their faith, love God, and trust His Word.

2. Be Proactive in Planning

- Proactive means “acting in anticipation of future problems, needs, or changes.” (Webster’s Dictionary)
- Being proactive prevents us from being reactive.
 - › Proverbs 22:3 “The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.”
 - The proactive reap benefits.
 - The inactive face consequences. *Parables of the Fig Tree and Ten Virgins* (Luke 13:6-9, Matthew 25:1-13)
- We need to be proactive in preparing the next generation for the financial challenges that may lie ahead.

• First time managing a consistent income	• Paying for college
• Buying first car	• Wedding expenses
• Avoiding credit card debt	• Understanding budgeting

Consider Your Ways

Building a Foundation for Biblical Stewardship

MISPLACED PRIORITIES EXPOSED

Haggai 1:1-6

1. Israel was given a task - Rebuild the Temple.
2. The nation loses focus - They focused on their own houses rather than the Temple. (v. 4)
3. What was their excuse? ‘Well God, the timing just isn't right.’ (v. 6)
 - Crop Failure: “You have sown much, and harvested little.”
 - Hunger: “You eat, but you never have enough.”
 - Drought: “You drink, but you never have your fill.”
 - Sickness and Disease: “You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm.”
 - Financial Distress: “And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.”
4. What was the reality of the situation? Their priorities were not God’s priorities. They put themselves before God.
5. Money is a great barometer for what we love and value most. How money is spent reveals the ultimate priorities of the human heart.
6. **Key Takeaway**: Our activities and our use of money expose our true priorities.

“Because God cares about priorities, our personal financial stewardship should reflect God’s priorities.”
- Jeremy Ehst, CFP®

THE COST OF MISPLACED PRIORITIES

Haggai 1:7-11

1. What was the real cause of Israel’s struggles? God wanted to get their attention.
 - Scarcity: “You looked for much, and behold, it came to little.” (v. 9)
 - Loss: “And when you brought it home, I blew it away.” (v. 9)
 - Drought: “Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew.” (v. 10)
 - Weak Harvest: “And the earth has withheld its produce.” (v. 10)
 - Frustration: “And I have called for a drought on the land and in the hills, on the grain, the new wine, oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors.” (v. 11).

Free to Serve

Creating a Spending Plan that Works

Who needs a budget? We all do! Budgeting is necessary for everyone, regardless of age or income. For the believer, budgeting is a demonstration of wise stewardship. Simply put, a budget is a spending plan; a tool to help you make the best possible use of the resources that God has entrusted to you. (Psalm 24:1, 1 Corinthians 4:2)

Budgeting = Planning = Wisdom

TOP 6 REASONS WHY PEOPLE DON'T BUDGET

1. “It’s too hard...”
2. “I don’t know how to make a budget, or where to start.”
3. “I can make one, but I can’t stick to it.”
4. “My budget doesn’t work.”
5. “Budgeting is restrictive, it feels like a straight jacket!”
6. “I don’t need one.”

“Budgeting is a demonstration of wise stewardship.”
- Rev. Drew Gysi

TOP 3 BENEFITS OF BUDGETING

1. Financial Freedom

- Budgeting is not a straight jacket, it’s freedom! Budgeting becomes your roadmap to security and keeping you on the right path of stewardship.
- We become financially free to bless and serve.

2. Stronger Families and Churches

- Since finances are one of the biggest sources of conflict in a marriage, budgeting can help keep spouses focused on a common goal and potentially reduce marital stress.
- When a Christian couple agrees on spending priorities, they often see fewer arguments about money, and their savings increase, too.

3. Exercises our Faith

- Our faith is strengthened when we follow what the Word of God says.
- As we align our financial priorities with those of Scripture, we gain a deeper understanding and application of Biblical stewardship.

The Budget Worksheet

Download your budget worksheet at LifelInstitute.org/Resources

Total Household Income (Net or Take-home)		Monthly Budget	Yearly Budget	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Quarterly
				Actual	Actual	Actual	Total
Income 1							
Income 2							
Extra/Additional Income							
Total Income							
Expenses		Budgeted	Budgeted	Actual	Actual	Actual	Total
Give							
Tithe/Grace Giving <i>(Goal 10%+ to the local church's general fund)</i>							
Save							
Short Term <i>(Unanticipated/Planned expenses within 18 mo.)</i>							
<i>Emergency Fund</i>							
<i>Car Replacement</i>							
Long Term <i>(Retirement/Investments - Suggested Goal 10%)</i>							
Spend							
Housing & Utilities	Mortgage/Rent Payment <i>(Goal 25-30% of income)</i>						
	Homeowner's/Renter's Insurance						
	Home Maintenance						
	Property Taxes						
	Taxes <i>(Federal, State, Local)</i>						
	Insurance Premiums <i>(Health, Life, Disability)</i>						
	Electricity						
	Garbage Removal <i>(Trash/Recycling)</i>						
	Water/Sewer						
	Heating <i>(Gas, Fuel)</i>						
	Phone <i>(Home/Mobile)</i>						
	Internet						
Other _____							
Auto	Auto Insurance						
	Auto Repair						
	Gas/Other Auto Expenses						
Daily Living	Cash Allowances <i>(Personal + Spouse)</i>						
	Cash Allowances <i>(Children's)</i>						
	Child Care						
	Personal Supplies						
	Groceries						
Clothing							
Debt Payment	Car Loan						
	Education Loans						
	Credit Card Payments						
	Medical Debt						
	Other _____						
Other _____							
Misc.	Education						
	Gifts <i>(Birthdays, Christmas, etc.)</i>						
	Other _____						
Offerings							
Generous Giving/Donations/Charity							
Luxuries							
Eating Out							
Hobbies/Pets							
Vacation							
Cable TV/Streaming							
Subscriptions							
Other _____							
Total Expenses							
Surplus or Deficit/Cash Flow							

Facing the Future with Confidence

Practical Financial, Tax, and Retirement Planning

OVERVIEW

Financial success comes from following Scripture and applying Biblical priorities to our choices. This section is specifically applicable to the second Biblical Financial priority, Save. We do not save to become rich or indulge our own desires. Rather, we save to protect our family and avoid debt as we work, age, and eventually retire (Proverbs 21:20, 1 Timothy 5:8).

SAVINGS CATEGORIES

1. Short Term Savings

- Short term comes before long term. If you have not started to save, you should begin by building your short term savings before focusing on long term.
- What are short term savings? Short term savings are cash reserves to cover emergencies and planned expenses. Goal is 3 to 6 months of living expenses.

2. Long Term Savings

- What are long term savings? Investing for needs 3+ years out.
 - › College, buying your first house, retirement, etc.
 - › Investments vs. Savings
 - Savings has no market risk (cash/bank).
 - Investing is taking prudent risks while anticipating growth (e.g., stock market/real estate).
- The key to investing is intentional discipline over time.
 - › Intentional - Set aside a certain amount of money each month (automatic).
 - › Discipline - Continue investing and/or stay invested when the market is down.
 - › Over Time - Stick to your plan for the long term.
- For as little as \$50 per month, you can start an investment account! Where can you come up with this money to start investing?
 - › Reduce Spending: daily coffee, eating out, TV subscriptions, etc.
 - › Increase Cash Flow by taking on extra work and/or avoiding tax refund (increase exemptions on W-4 at work).

Finishing Strong

How Proactive Estate Planning Can Impact Your Family and Church

IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

1. Estate Planning from a Christian Perspective

- Estate - All money, assets, or property owned by a person.
- Planning - Planning boils down to a process of determining to whom, how, and when we will transfer our wealth when the time comes that we cannot manage it ourselves. Just having an idea of how your assets are to be handled isn't enough. Your plan must be in writing.
- Christian - Infusing your testimony, convictions, and values into a written estate plan for the continued stewardship of your assets upon disability and/or death.

2. Probate - An Introduction (for more information see page 48)

- It is court oversight of the distribution of your assets to your heirs.
- It is the process which usually includes hiring and working with a lawyer to go through this court overseen process. Attorney fees are often the most expensive part of probate.
- Probate will occur with or without a will.

THE NEED

1. Who needs an Estate Plan?

- All adults (age 18 or above) with titled assets (i.e., bank account, car, real estate).
- Parents and guardians of minor children.
- While everyone may need an estate plan, some need it even more!
 - › Seniors
 - › Those with disabilities
 - › Those who have guardianship of individuals with disabilities

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...”

Matthew 6:19-20

Your Stewardship Action Plan

At the end of the day, learning the principles in this workbook without applying them will lead you into frustration. Throughout the workbook, you were encouraged to write down your key takeaway points. Now it's time to create a plan to put them into action. We included some action items below to help you get started! If you need any assistance with any of the items below, feel free to contact us by phone (800) 688-5800 or by email at Contact@LifeInstitute.org

<u>Action Items</u>	<u>Actions Needed</u>	<u>Date Completed</u>
Schedule Personal Stewardship Review	_____	_____
Subscribe to <i>The Stewardology Podcast</i>	_____	_____
Review Priorities (LifeInstitute.org/Priorities)	_____	_____
Establish an Emergency Fund (p. 16)	_____	_____
Establish a Budget (p. 16)	_____	_____
Debt Elimination Plan (p. 20)	_____	_____
Establish a College Fund (p. 25)	_____	_____
Establish/Maintain Retirement Account (p. 35)	_____	_____
Income Tax Reduction Plan (p. 39)	_____	_____
Life Insurance Plan (p. 40)	_____	_____
Christian Estate Plan (POAs & Will, p. 43)	_____	_____
Title Assets to Avoid Probate (p. 48)	_____	_____
Charitable Giving Plan	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLES THAT IMPACT TODAY, TOMORROW, AND ETERNITY.

If you need help applying these principles to your everyday life, contact Life Institute today.

 800.688.5800

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Tune in to our podcast!

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Mission and Purpose

Life Institute exists to help Christians become even better stewards of all their assets. We do this by partnering with churches to create a culture of Biblical stewardship and establish a Biblical framework for everyday financial decisions. Life Institute has served churches and families around the world as a ministry of the Life Financial Group for over thirty-five years.

A Biblical Framework for Everyday Financial Decisions

The Stewardship Lifestyle Seminar is a live, customizable, three day event that focuses on teaching foundational, Biblical financial priorities to apply to everyday decisions in every season of life. The principles emphasized during this seminar cover a variety of topics such as proactive parenting, priorities from a Biblical worldview, budgeting and debt elimination, financial and tax planning, retirement income preparation, and Christian estate planning. At Life Institute, we believe instruction without application can lead to frustration. Therefore, we spend a large amount of time focusing on how families can practically apply the truths found in God's Word to their lives for today, tomorrow, and eternity.

Putting Stewardship into Action

During the seminar, we spend a significant amount of time conducting complimentary **Personal Stewardship Reviews**. These confidential, one-on-one meetings provide helpful tactics for families to apply Biblical principles to their unique situations as they discuss budgeting, cash flow, savings, debt, taxes, investments, and life insurance with a Christian financial counselor. Personal Stewardship Reviews are meant to give practical advice that believers can implement immediately in order to get their financial house in order.