

Being a Good Steward

Teacher's Guide

Print one copy for your use in Activity 2.

Students will determine if a certain activity is honoring to God and His creation or not. Using a couple of balls will make this activity fun and help the students pay attention.

Give two students each a soft ball or something they can toss. Read a scenario below and ask the students to determine if it describes being a good steward or not. If it describes good stewardship, they can throw the ball to someone else in the circle. If it is not good stewardship according to God's Word, they will pass the ball to the person on their right. Continue with each situation below.

When finished, ask the students why they answered the way they did and go over the brief explanations listed below with each situation.

1. After a picnic or a weekend camping trip, your parents always insist you leave the campsite cleaner than when you arrived. *Yes, picking up trash is being a good steward of God's creation.*
2. It's an Earth Day celebration at school. Your teacher invites all the students to stay after school for a tree-planting ceremony where the students will be asked to say tributes to the tree for providing shelter for animal friends, shade for hot workers, and air for all the earth's creatures. *No, the tree cannot hear tributes. It does not have feelings. To say a word of thanks to a tree would be along the lines of worship. We should thank the Creator, not the creation.*
3. Your local community center is hosting a meeting to discuss emergency flood sandbag plans in case the river rises too high in the spring. *Yes, God wants us to use good judgment to manage the creation in the best interest of people.*
4. Your friend often prays using this phrase, "I give thanks to the plants and animals that gave their lives to provide this food for me today." Should you join him in the prayer? *No, you should not join your friend in a prayer of this type. We must not thank the creation, but the Creator.*
5. Your dad suggests you start collecting the cans that your family normally throws away. He says you could turn them in for cash at the local recycling center. *Yes, recycling shows good stewardship of God's creation.*
6. You love horses. You regularly help out your elderly neighbor with the care and exercising of his two horses. *Yes, caring for animals is part of taking care of God's creation.*
7. You are invited to join a group that vandalizes large SUVs because they are "gas guzzlers." They want to send a message that we need to save the planet. *No, violence or attacking others in an effort to save the planet is never right.*
8. There is a problem in your backyard. The steep hill is beginning to erode away. Your parents ask you to help plant and water some prairie grass and ground cover, so the roots will help stop the hill from washing away. *Yes, managing nature wisely in order to stop damage to homes or yards is being a good steward of God's creation.*
9. Some bats have made a home in your attic. You help your dad eliminate the bats and fill the hole where they were getting in, so you won't have any more trouble. *Yes, getting rid of household pests to help your family live in a safer environment is managing God's creation wisely.*
10. Hunting season has begun. You look forward to shooting your first deer. You've been practicing with your bow for weeks. Your family can really use the food to help them make it through winter. *Yes, safe legal hunting methods help keep animal populations down so the animals remain healthy. God gave man permission to eat animals after Noah's Flood. Hunting can be a good way to manage God's creation.*