Diocese of Davenport, Iowa
Self-Study of U.S. Bishop’s Pastoral Letter
Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response


Purpose:
• Assist individuals to grow in their understanding of stewardship
• Develop leaders who will foster stewardship as a way of life in the Diocese of Davenport
• Celebrate 25th anniversary of the pastoral letter

Process:
• May be completed individually or in a small group format. Accomplished at your own pace—in as little as one day or over a number of weeks.
• Participants read and reflect on a passage of scripture for each study session.
• Participants read and reflect on the six sections of the pastoral letter.
• Participants share reflections with members of their small group (if applicable) and send written reflections for all six sessions to stewardship.diodav@gmail (or mail hardcopy to Director of Stewardship at address below). Be sure to give your name, mailing address, phone number, and name of parish.

Support:
• Office of Stewardship—Diocese of Davenport
• Diocese of Davenport Stewardship Commission

Facilitator:
Dan R. Ebener, Director of Stewardship
Diocese of Davenport
780 West Central Park Ave., Davenport, IA 52804
563-324-1912, ext. 268
Ebener@davenportdiocese.org

The parish of everyone who completes the self-study and returns reflections for all 6 sessions by June 1, 2018 will be entered into a drawing for a basket loaded with current stewardship materials (includes copies of the 1992 pastoral letter). Don’t miss this exciting opportunity to win a supply of “how to” resources for your parish.
Study Sessions

SESSION 1: STEWARDSHIP—THE CHALLENGE AND THE CHOICE

Scripture: Read Genesis Chapter 1, Story of Creation

Scripture Reflection Questions:
1. What is the point of this creation story, or what do you think the author wants the reader to take from this account of creation? (HINT: What phrase is repeated throughout the story?)
2. What about the creation story makes it a valuable stewardship scripture?

Write a short 1-2 paragraph response to either question above.

Pastoral: Read the Preface and Introduction

Spend some time reflecting on the study questions that follow the Introduction. Write a short 1-2 paragraph reflection on ONE key question that stands out for you.

Share your reflections from Session 1 with your small group.

SESSION 2: THE CALL

Scripture: Read John 1:35-50, Calling of the Disciples

Scripture Reflection Questions:
1. This is a study on stewardship. So why have you been given a reading on discipleship?
2. Comment on how the words “Come, see for yourself.” are important to learning about stewardship.

Write a short 1-2 paragraph response to either question above.

Pastoral: Read Chapter One, The Call

Spend some time reflecting on the study questions that follow Chapter 1. Write a short 1-2 paragraph reflection on ONE key question that stands out for you.

Share your reflections from Session 2 with your small group.

SESSION 3: JESUS’ WAY

Scripture: Read Matthew 25:14-30, Parable of the Talents

Scripture Reflection Question:
1. You have what you have. Moreover, how much or how little you have really isn’t the question. So then, what is (are) the question(s)? Write a short 1-2 paragraph response.

Pastoral: Read Chapter Two, Jesus’ Way

Spend some time reflecting on the study questions that follow Chapter 2. Write a short 1-2 paragraph reflection on ONE key question that stands out for you.

Share your reflections from Session 3 with your small group.
SESSION 4: LIVING AS A STEWARD

Scripture: Read Acts 2:1-47, Communal Life

Scripture Reflection Question:
1. These are very familiar scriptures. Using your knowledge of stewardship and discipleship, what particular words, phrases, sections of this scripture relate to both ‘stewardship’ and ‘discipleship’? Write a short reflection explaining why you think so.

Pastoral: Read Chapter Three, Living as a Steward

Spend some time reflecting on the study questions that follow Chapter 3. Write a short 1-2 paragraph reflection on ONE key question that stands out for you.

Share your reflections from Session 4 with your small group.

SESSION 5: STEWARDS OF THE CHURCH

Scripture: Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly

Scripture Reflection Questions:
1. What do you first think of/about when reading this scripture?
2. What prevents many from living the teaching of this scripture?
3. What prevents you from living the teaching of this scripture? Explain.

Write a short 1-2 paragraph response to one of the above questions.

Pastoral: Read Chapter Four, Stewards of the Church

Spend some time reflecting on the study questions that follow Chapter 4. Write a short 1-2 paragraph reflection on ONE key question that stands out for you.

Share your reflections from Session 5 with your small group.

SESSION 6: THE CHRISTIAN STEWARD

Scripture: Read Luke 12:32-46, Where your treasure is, there will your heart be

Scripture Reflection Questions:
1. This scripture begins with the words, “Do not live in fear, little flock. It has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.” Why do so many still live in fear? In fear of what?
2. “It will go well with those servants whom the master finds wide awake on his return.” This passage certainly means something different than hoping not to die in your sleep. To what are we to be wide-awake? What does the scripture mean?

Write a short 1-2 paragraph response to either question above.
**Pastoral**: Read Chapter Five, The Christian Steward

Reflect on Chapter 5 using the following questions. (No questions are given in the document itself).

1. Why do we speak of stewardship as a lifestyle?
2. Give an insight that you have obtained from *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*.
3. Name or describe some important gifts that you have received from God. As a good steward of these gifts, what is your action?

Write a short 1-2 paragraph reflection on ONE key question from above that stands out for you. Share your reflections from Session 6 with your small group.

Send written reflections for all six sessions to stewardship.diodav@gmail

Return by June 1, 2018 and include your name, mailing address, phone number, and name of your parish to be entered into the drawing for a basket of current stewardship materials. Delivery to the parish office included.