



*Stewardship*

A BIBLE STUDY WITH

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# CULTIVATE REVIVAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

A Bible study series.  
Designed to cultivate revival  
and to grow stronger, together.





WEEK 1

A photograph of a sheep walking on a gravel road in a mountainous landscape. The road is paved with dark gravel and has a white line on the side. The sheep is walking towards the left. In the background, there are green hills and mountains under a cloudy sky. The text "GOD SEEKS MANAGERS" is overlaid in large white letters.

# GOD SEEKS MANAGERS

When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up-for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground.

### GENESIS 2:4-5

Promotion... It's something that every individual aspires for. People are always looking for a way to be promoted and achieve some new found level of success, and I am as guilty as anyone. Motive can be something that is called into question when you begin to look at individuals, as they aspire to be promoted. Some seek fame, some fortune, some power, and some a genuine desire to see the group succeed. After all, we are programmed to seek promotion from a young age. Whether you are too young to play with the big kids, or too young to have your own phone... everyone is trying to get to another level. Whether your trying to graduate 6th grade, or rent your first car at 25, promotion is what we are driven to.

The physical world has a way of dealing with qualifications to receive a promotion, and it is based upon certain criteria: age and/or experience. You can think of it this way, there is a certain age that you have to reach in order for you to get a driver's license; or perhaps you are passed over for a job because someone else has more experience (through specific training or over time). We know how the physical world works, but what about the culture of Heaven? How does promotion work in the spiritual world?

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How does  
promotion work  
in the spiritual  
world?

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Genesis 2:4-5 says, “When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of



the field had yet sprung up-for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground.”

Here is what it is saying in these verses; God has put everything into the ground. Every seed, every herb, every grain; but God had not caused it to rain. This is a perplexing statement, because it reveals something that we often forget about the culture of Heaven. God held up progress. God has decided to not let it rain, and yet how often do we like to

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Be careful not to rebuke the devil for something God is doing.

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put the blame on the devil? God held up the progress... not “demons are attacking me and my promotion.” Let us be careful not to rebuke the devil for something God is doing. God stopped everything...but why?

The following statement in verse 5 reveals our answer.

“There was no man to work the ground.” The first thing that God was looking for in the earth, was someone who could manage His resources. There was no reason to have the crops grow, if there was no one there to take care of them. The first thing God wanted was a manager/steward, and God will not rain on fields you can’t take care of. He does not allow something to grow, unless He knows there is someone there that can steward the growth that He brings. So before we ever pray for God to send rain, He is asking if you can manage the fields.

Can I make this a little more personal? God does not have to put anything else in you. We can pray for God to give us more, but there is no gift, or talent, or ability that God has not already given you in the form of a seed. The Bible says, you were “created before the foundations of the world.” You showed up with seeds in you. The seeds of business are already in you, the seeds of ministry are already in you, the seeds of great relationships are already in you, the seeds of growth are already in you; but God will not rain on fields you cannot take care of.

So if God is looking for someone who can manage His resources, then the question becomes, what are His resources? The short answer is everything. He is the owner of everything, therefore one of the greatest fulfillments as a child of God is to have the owner of everything entrust something to you.

After becoming a child of God, the greatest gift you can receive is the promotion of stewarding the King's resources, and the way you get promoted is through stewarding what He has already put in your hand.

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Before we ever pray for God to bring rain, He is asking if you can manage the fields.

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**THE FIRST THING GOD WANTED WAS A  
MANAGER/STEWARD, AND GOD WILL NOT RAIN ON  
FIELDS YOU CAN'T TAKE CARE OF. HE DOES NOT  
ALLOW SOMETHING TO GROW, UNLESS HE KNOWS  
THERE IS SOMEONE THERE THAT CAN STEWARD  
THE GROWTH THAT HE BRINGS.**

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# THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

How would you define promotion from an earthly perspective? \_\_\_\_\_

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How would you define promotion from a heavenly perspective? \_\_\_\_\_

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What areas of my life do I want to see promotion in? \_\_\_\_\_

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WEEK 2

# WHEN YOU MANAGE WELL



So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

### MATTHEW 25:27-29

I can remember being 14 years old and desperately begging my parents to get me a cell phone. I remember classmate after classmate receiving their first cell phone, and there was nothing that I wanted more than to get my own phone. My mom gave me an older phone that she had used and had since upgraded to a newer one. As you can imagine, I wasn't very impressed with my mom's old phone. It wasn't even hooked up to a cellular service so it was completely irrelevant. I couldn't call or text anyone, yet my mom was insistent on me keeping the phone. I was suppose to take it to school, charge it at night, and keep up with it, like it was a big deal. As it turns out, after about 3 months of keeping up with a small thing, I was given a real cell phone by my parents.

It's interesting to know that God works in the same way. When you manage well, you are entrusted with more, and the reality is that God will test you. It says that the earth was ready to explode with increase, but God stopped the progress until He could find someone who could manage His increase.

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God stopped the progress until He could find someone who could manage His increase.

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Management/stewardship by nature means that you are in charge of bringing increase to something that is not yours. It is more than just watching it and returning it, as we well know from the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. Three stewards were given part of their master's resources, and given the responsibility to bring increase to it.

Matthew 25:26-29 “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.’”

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Before God gives you your own, He will test you with that which pertains to someone else.

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Two of them were successful, and the last was not. The truth is before God gives you your own, He will test you with that which pertains to someone else; and there is a mandate to bring increase to it. In other words, make it better.

How many of you would like to own a house one day? If you would like to own your own house one day, then I have a question, “How do you treat your bedroom or rented apartment?” Too often we take advantage of things when they don’t belong to us. You can put a 87 year old grandma in a rental car and she will be doing doughnuts in a WalMart parking lot. We go crazy with things like this because it doesn’t belong to us.

A recent study shows that in an 8 hour work day the average worker only has 2 hours and 52 minutes of productive work. So the question that we have to ask ourselves is, “What has God given me to steward right now, and how am I stewarding it?” The problem is that we want it to happen fast.

David was content playing his harp and looking after sheep, but a day would come when God wanted the kingdom to be his. It’s like God is saying, “I have found a man after my own heart. His ego does not get in the way, and I am going to make him king, but not yet.”

The biggest mistake we make is if we don't get something quick, we don't think it's going to happen. Sometimes for big things to happen in your life, it takes time. Big deals take time. If I want to go to the gas station and buy some gas, it doesn't take very long to do that. If I want to buy the gas station, it is going to take some time. Big deals take time.

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Sometimes for  
big things to  
happen in your life,  
it takes time.

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**MANAGEMENT/STEWARDSHIP BY NATURE MEANS  
THAT YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF BRINGING INCREASE TO  
SOMETHING THAT IS NOT YOURS. IT IS MORE THAN  
JUST WATCHING IT AND RETURNING IT.**

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# THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

What is it that you are wanting God to do in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

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How are you bringing increase to what He has given you now? \_\_\_\_\_

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Are you willing to surrender your timeline to the Lord? What does that look like? \_\_\_\_\_

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WEEK 3

# STEWARD VS OWN

A landscape photograph of a green field with a road and buildings in the distance, overlaid with the text 'STEWARD VS OWN'. The image shows a wide, flat green field with a road or path cutting through it. In the far distance, there are some buildings and a coastline. The sky is overcast and grey. The text 'STEWARD VS OWN' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.



Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said,  
“Send me your son David, who is with the sheep.”

1 SAMUEL 16:19

Just recently, I was a part of a business deal that made me the owner of a company that I was previously managing. There were certain things that immediately changed when I became the owner of the company. There were overall decisions about the structure of the company that I changed immediately, but even my personal decisions changed about the company. When I was managing the company, I would make decisions based on what I knew the owner would want. Constantly asking myself the question, “How would he handle this situation? What would he want to see happen here? How do I best represent him in this situation.” Now, because the owner was ran his business well, there are not many things that I have changed, but the mindset has certainly changed. Now I no longer make decisions based on what he would do, I make decisions based on what I want to do. It has been interesting to see the correlations between this transition, and the transition that God is offering to us as believers.

The opposite of stewardship is ownership, and too often, we want to be the owners of our life or possessions. Instead it would be wise for us to understand that every great gift comes from God. He is the giver of every good thing, and He is deserving of that recognition. You and I own nothing, God is the owner of it all. He gives things to you and I so that we can steward them. So rather than asking our-

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You and I own  
nothing, God is the  
owner of it all.

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selves, “What do we want to accomplish? What do I want to do? What makes me happy?,” we should ask, “What does God want to accomplish? What does God want to do? What makes Him happy?” These questions make God the owner of our life and resources. There is a great parallel in scripture that reveals the differences between ownership and stewardship. Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23.

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David is anointed to be king, but he is taking care of sheep.

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First off, let's acknowledge how great it is to see how God makes room for you. You have value and God will make room for you in His due time. Let's take a look at the backstory of David's life to this point. We can look at the life of David and see that he is learning to be a great steward. He has managed the great gains with humility and the losses with gratitude. David's primary story thus far is “David and Goliath.” David's ability to wield a slingshot has put him on the national stage. The sling got him there, and the harp will be what keeps him there. He has killed Goliath. He has just saved an entire nation from being overthrown, and he goes right back to the hills again. He is taking care of his father's sheep, again. He is anointed to be king, but he is taking care of sheep. He has an anointing, but his anointing does not fit his situation. It would be easy for David to quit, become frustrated, or complain; but God has not forgotten David nor has He forgotten you. Perhaps this resonates with you. Perhaps you feel like you have the anointing to be in a certain place, but you're stuck in a situation that has you in a “lower” place. God has not forgotten you. Do not despise the small beginnings, God knows where you are at. David is proving that he is an excellent steward, but Saul's rap sheet is very different.

Saul did not steward the position from God well. He wanted to own the position. He did not steward the kingdom of Israel well, so God took it from him. He is still in something that he has already lost. Often times we lose things before we lose them. They are gone

before they go. People who decide to get a divorce were separated long before they decide to file paperwork. Saul is no different. Saul is still in something that is already gone. His anointing is gone, but he is still in the position. He has position with no presence. Now an evil spirit has replaced the anointing because he is going to be filled with something; and a dark feeling of rejection has fallen upon the king.

Surely you would agree, there is nothing as scary as a guy in power who is dysfunctional. When you have rejection issues, it affects the atmosphere. The ownership mentality coupled with the rejection issues of Saul has created so many problems that he is hard to work for. He has become so hard to work for that no one wants to confront his dysfunction. Yet, they are trying to persuade him to get help, because bad leadership affects moral. Saul's poor stewardship has created such a bad culture that the people that have to work under him are desperate to find a solution. This is the problem that creates an opportunity for David to be called.

We as believers have to look at the areas of our life to eliminate our agenda and promote His. Is He the owner of your life? Your dreams? Your plans? Or are you quick to take ownership of something as soon as He puts it in your hand? Understanding the difference between ownership and stewardship is the first step to stepping into God's plan for your life.

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Do not despise the  
small beginnings,  
God knows where  
you are at.

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**WE AS BELIEVERS HAVE TO LOOK AT THE AREAS OF OUR  
LIFE TO ELIMINATE OUR AGENDA AND PROMOTE HIS. IS HE  
THE OWNER OF YOUR LIFE? YOUR DREAMS? YOUR PLANS?**

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# THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

Parallel the differences between David's stewardship vs Saul's ownership? \_\_\_\_\_

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What areas of my life do I need to steward so that God can be the owner? \_\_\_\_\_

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What are some practical ways I can allow God to be the owner of things in my life? \_\_\_\_\_

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WEEK 4

**HOW ARE  
YOU  
STEWARDING?**

A photograph of several sheep in a field. The sheep are white and woolly, with some having blue markings on their backs. They are standing in a field of dry, golden-brown grass and some green blades. In the background, there is a large body of water, possibly a lake or a wide river, under a clear sky. The overall scene is a pastoral landscape.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

Can you imagine if God had created Adam before he had created water? Or air? That would have been disastrous. The wonderful miracle of creating Adam, only to have him suffocate to death? This is proof that there is an environment that has to be created for you to succeed. There are times that you feel that you are ready to take on the next thing, but the next thing might not be ready for you. There are times that you feel that you're ready to move up the ladder, but God has to prepare the place as much as He has to prepare the person. God will only bring you in when the place is prepared. He will set you in a place when you are prepared and the place is prepared, because "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."

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You may feel that you are ready to take on the next thing, but the next thing might not be ready for you.

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How often have you thought that you were created for something more, but you can't seem to find out what that more is? The reality is that you have been created for God's purposes, but sometimes God develops the answer before He reveals the question that it answers. David has a unique gift that does not fit his situation while he is taking care of sheep, but his gift makes sense when he is brought to the battle field and the king's palace. God was just prepping things.

What makes the answer so profound is the question. If you give the answer before the question, then the answer doesn't make any sense. The question is the canvas on which the



answer is painted. David is the answer, and Saul is the question. Saul has lost his anointing and in its place, God has sent an evil spirit to torment Saul. I believe it is important to note here that God is not an evil spirit, but He has control over evil spirits.

Saul is mad, and dark, and throwing stuff. He is unpredictable and hurting the people around him so, they send for David. Saul has become unbearable to be around, and David has the gift of God in his fingers. When David plays his harp, the evil spirit departs from him. David never knew when he was playing on the backside of the mountain, that the stewardship of his gift would make room for him. That he would go from playing for sheep to playing for kings.

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You are the solution to someone's problem. Nobody can do what you do, when you do, it like you do it!

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You are the answer to someone's question! You are the solution to someone's problem, and nobody can do what you do, when you do, it like you do it. The stewardship of his gift brings the presence of God and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Many of us like to ask the question, "What is my purpose?" but true stewards understand that they don't have a purpose. They are only stewards of God's purpose in their life.

The reality is that too often we are looking for grand change in our lives when we finally step into our purpose and we will feel fulfilled. But our stewardship of what He has put in our hand is the greatest fulfillment of His purposes. You are living in purpose now, because you are stewarding something now. If God has given you one talent, don't pray to receive the five talents. Simply steward what you have. The easiest way to steward what you have is to identify it.

How can I define what I steward? It is impossible to steward, what you cannot define. Do you know why John 3:16 is the most quoted verse in all of scripture? Because Heaven's purpose was stated in a single sentence. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His

only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” What I have discovered, is Jesus was able to define His purpose in one sentence. He answers 5 questions, in this verse, so all you need to do is follow the example of Christ.

Study John 3:16 and take pattern from it. The goal of this exercise is to clearly define God’s purpose for your life. Below is the example of David’s purpose. Format the following statement around your purpose.

Hello, my name is *David*, and I *care for my father’s sheep* who are *vulnerable* so that they can *live a happy and healthy life*.

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You are living in  
purpose now,  
because you are  
stewarding  
something now.

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TOO OFTEN WE ARE LOOKING FOR GRAND CHANGE IN  
OUR LIVES WHEN WE FINALLY STEP INTO OUR  
PURPOSE AND WE WILL FEEL FULFILLED. BUT OUR  
STEWARDSHIP OF WHAT HE HAS PUT IN OUR HAND IS  
THE GREATEST FULFILLMENT OF HIS PURPOSES.

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# THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

Who are you (David)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you do? (I care for sheep.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who do you do it for? (My father and the sheep.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do they need? (They need protection and care.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How are they changed? (They are happy and healthy.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MY LIFE:**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

who \_\_\_\_\_

so that \_\_\_\_\_.



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