



## Stewardship in the Second Testament

### Lesson 6: Later Writings

#### Overview

This session explores stewardship as the faithful sharing of God’s grace, even in times of limitation or challenge. Participants will reflect on how they can bear witness to God’s grace through both affirmation and resistance in their personal and communal lives.

#### Preparation for the Teacher

- Read the texts (found below) ahead of time.
- Watch the video (link below)—it may stimulate additional questions appropriate for your context. Make certain you have tested the equipment necessary for showing the video—it helps to keep the technical gremlins away!
- Do a little homework about your church and community. Think about people in your congregation and in your community who have been channels of God’s grace. Can you name “faithful witnesses” who have gone against the grain of whatever the current trend is in an effort to be true to what they believe about God?
  - Has there been a time in your congregation’s history where the community of faith has spoken either a prophetic “No” or “Yes” in the midst of difficulty?
  - Can you identify ways in which your congregation mediates God’s grace to its members or surrounding community?

#### Background

The later writings of the New Testament—such as Ephesians, Colossians, 1 Peter, and Revelation—reflect communities navigating life after the earliest apostolic period, often amid social pressure, marginalization, or uncertainty. These texts emphasize the ordering of community life, faithful endurance, and the ongoing work of God’s grace through the church. Together, they present stewardship as the faithful sharing of God’s varied grace in both stability and struggle, pointing toward the ultimate renewal of all things in God’s promised future.

***Pray for your students as you prepare this week’s lesson.***

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## Facilitating the Lesson

As the class begins, welcome the class and engage in your usual opening exercises (taking attendance, collecting an offering, prayer concerns, other announcements, etc.).

### Scripture Reflection:

Invite different class members to read the following texts aloud (this helps engage more participants):

- Ephesians 3:2
- Colossians 1:25
- Titus 1:8
- 1 Peter 4:10
- Revelation 21:1–8

### Video Segment

Have the class watch the video link on YouTube:

### Discussion Questions

Invite the class to wrestle with the following:

#### 1. Stewarding Grace in Limited Circumstances

1 Peter and the Book of Revelation both emphasize that even when we are suffering or are in difficult situations in which we appear to have very few resources, we can be stewards of God's grace.

- Discuss a situation in which you feel like your resources might be limited but in which you can be a steward of God's grace.

#### 2. Stewards for Others

According to Ephesians, the author was made a steward of God's grace for the sake of Gentiles—people who do not know God or live according to God's word.

- Think of a situation in which people do not know God for which you can be a steward of God's grace.

#### 3. Many-Colored Grace

1 Peter says we are stewards of the manifold, or many-colored, grace of God. This implies that God's grace comes in many ways.

- What are some ways that God's grace comes to you for which you can then be a steward to others?

#### 4. Faithful Resistance

The writer of the Book of Revelation was in a situation in which the community was oppressed by

the Roman Empire. The community could do little to change the situation except say “No” and keep alive the possibility of the Realm.

- Can you think of a situation in which all you or your congregation can do is say “No”?
- How is saying “No” faithful?

### **5. Faithful Affirmation**

- Are there things to which your congregation can say “Yes” that bear witness to the Gospel and are countercultural?

### **Closing**

Close your class time with prayer.

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*This is part of a 7-session series on Stewardship in the Second Testament, designed to be used as a Sunday School or small group lesson. Content is provided by Rev. Dr. Ron Allen in partnership with the Center for Faith & Giving ([www.centerforfaithandgiving.org](http://www.centerforfaithandgiving.org)).*