

SOUTH CAROLINA  
BAPTIST CONVENTION

*Cooperative Program/Stewardship Development Group*

190 Stoneridge Drive • Columbia SC 29210-8254

(803) 765-0030 or (800) 723-7242

Website: [www.scbaptist.org](http://www.scbaptist.org)

©2003 South Carolina Baptist Convention



# **Stewardship... God's Way**

**Children's Edition**



**Choice 3: Edible Clay**

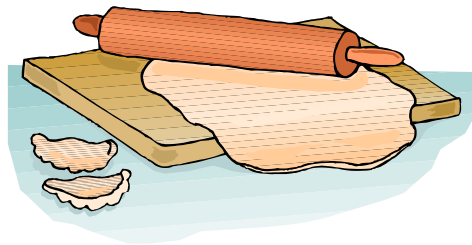
**Prepare:** The day before, prepare and refrigerate the edible clay. Provide waxed paper and moist towelettes. (Parent involvement opportunity: early in the week prior to the session, ask one or two parents to make a batch of clay with their child and send it to class! Provide the recipe and snack-sized plastic bags for packaging the balls of clay.)

**Teach:** Give each child a ball of edible clay and a sheet of waxed paper to work on. Instruct them to use their clay to make an item representing something God created. For each item they make, lead them to suggest a way they can take care of, or use wisely, that gift from God. As time allows, they may re-use their clay to make additional shapes. If you choose, you may let the boys and girls eat the clay at the end of the session, or they may take it home in the plastic bags. Use the moist towelettes to clean sticky hands. Close with prayer and dismiss, reminding children to take home their learner page.

**Edible Clay**

- 1 c. light corn syrup
- ¼ c. margarine
- 1 c. peanut butter
- 3 c. powdered sugar
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla
- food coloring
- 3 c. flour

Combine all ingredients except flour. Mix well. Slowly stir in flour. Roll mixture into small balls (about the size of a golf ball), store each ball in a separate plastic bag, and refrigerate overnight.



**Honoring God**

**Session Overview—Week 1**

**Bible Passage:** Genesis 1; 2:15-20

**Biblical Setting:** After creating the world and everything in it, God gave to people the task of managing His creation.

**Bible Truth:** Everything belongs to God, who shares it with us and expects us to use what He gives in ways that honor Him.

**Memory Verse:** The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it. (Psalm 24:1)

**Life Impact:** I can honor God by being a good steward of all He gives me.

**Teacher's Personal Bible Study**

This unit of study on stewardship begins by establishing that all we have belongs to God, who shares it with us. We can honor Him by using what He's given us wisely and generously in service to Him.

**God Owns It** (Genesis 1)

There is not anything in the world that does not belong to God. Psalm 24:1-2 declares that the earth and everything in it, including all living things, are God's because He is the Maker of it all. Find the following scriptures and write here what the verses declare God to own:

Leviticus 25:23 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 50:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Ezekiel 18:4 \_\_\_\_\_

God not only owns everything because of creation, but also because of redemption. Christ's death was the price paid to purchase a people out of the earth for His special possession. Read 1 Cor. 6:20 and Rev. 5:9 and check here when you have done so: \_\_\_\_\_. This redemption affects not just Christians, but the entire creation. Paul states that all of creation anticipates being freed by the redemptive work of Christ (Romans 8:19-21).

When we realize that everything belongs to God, by redemption as well as creation, we will think differently about what we consider "our" possessions. All that we are and all that we "own" are really His. Therefore, God has the authority to direct what we do with our possessions, our money, our very lives. We are responsible to Him for it all, because it is really not ours, it is His.

**God Shares It (Genesis 2:15-20)**

Everything we have comes from God. As creator/owner, He gives us the use of His world, to bless us so that we may glorify Him. He holds us responsible for how we use what He has given. In Eden, Adam was to work and care for the garden (Gen. 2:15), enjoy the goodness of it (v. 16), and be responsible not to misuse it (v. 17). Read the following verses to see what God gives us:

Ecclesiastes 6:2 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, & \_\_\_\_\_

Deuteronomy 8:18 \_\_\_\_\_ to produce \_\_\_\_\_

**We Must Manage It for His Purposes**

If everything belongs to God, we must treat everything in our lives as borrowed. We must manage it well, using what He's given for Holy purposes. This is what stewardship means. In 2 Corinthians 9:8 we learn that God gives us all we need so that we will "abound in every good work." Recognizing God's ownership and sharing of life and all its resources, we will live in gratitude for our blessings and constantly seek ways to use our lives and possessions to honor and serve Him.

**Choice 1: Gifts from God Boxes**

**Prepare:** Provide small boxes with lids for each child, wrapping paper, gift bows, scissors, tape, index cards, and pencils.

**Teach:** Explain to children that they can make gift boxes to remind them of all the things God gives them. Give each child a box. Lead them to wrap their box and lid separately (so that the box can be opened), placing a bow on the lid.



Give each child a pencil and several index cards. Lead them to think of gifts God gives, including their possessions, abilities, time, spending money, relationships (family and friends), and the created world. On each index card they can write a gift, then on the back write a way they can be a good steward of that gift, using it wisely in a way that honors God. (For example, a child who lists "singing" as a gift may write on the back, "sing in children's choir.") Encourage children to take their boxes home, pull out a card each day and thank God for that gift. Close with prayer and dismiss, reminding children to take home their learner page.

**Choice 2: Stewardship Banner**

**Prepare:** Provide a length of butcher paper, markers, glitter pens, paint pens, or other decorative materials, and masking tape.

**Teach:** Inform students that they can make and decorate a banner defining stewardship. Review the definition from their learner page, and lead them to decide what words and decorations to put on their banner. As the children work, engage them in conversation about good gifts and how they can be good stewards of those gifts. Lead them to think of God's creation, of possessions, of time, abilities, spending money, and relationships (family and friends). They may think of ways to include symbols of these items on the banner.

When the banner is completed, help the children to hang it in the room or a nearby hallway. Close with prayer and dismiss, reminding children to take home their learner page.



## Beginning Activity (5-10 minutes)

### Sing

Lead the children to stand and sing the chorus, “God is So Good.” For a second verse, sing “He made the world.”

### Apply Bible Truths

Tell students that just as God expected Adam and Eve to care for the things in the Garden of Eden, He expects us to take care of all that He’s given us. It pleases God and shows respect for Him when we make wise choices about how to use what we have been given. Instruct students to solve the coded word puzzle on their learner page to discover the word that means “to use what God has given you in ways that please and honor Him” (stewardship).

**Note for teachers:** Some children will know and may point out that Adam and Eve sinned by eating fruit that God told them not to eat in the garden. If children bring this up, you will want to acknowledge that this did happen, but do not dwell on that aspect of the creation narrative. Keep the focus of today's lesson on God's creation and ownership of the world and people's responsibility to be good stewards of God's gifts.

### Bible Learning Activities (20-25 minutes)

Provide the following activities, instructing children to choose one activity to continue learning.



### Prepare

- Make signs by writing on six sheets of paper the following words indicating what God made on the days of creation: 1.light; 2.sky; 3.trees & plants; 4.sun, moon, & stars; 5.fish & birds; 6.land animals & people. (For younger children/non-readers, you may use pictures from magazines rather than words on the signs.) Place the signs on the wall in order around the room.
- Obtain a small party noisemaker, train whistle, bell, or clapper.

### Teach

As children arrive, direct them to stand by the word/picture signs placed around the room, one or two children at each sign. They are to think of a motion or pose to represent the item on their sign. Have them perform their motion or hold their pose until you signal with the noisemaker for them to move to the next sign. Continue until time is up or most children have circulated to all the signs. Instruct the children to be seated for group time when the final signal is given.

## Group Time - Bible Study (20-25 minutes)

- Create a session title banner by printing “Stewardship: Honoring God” on a half-sheet of posterboard or on a computer banner. Display it in the group time area.
- Write the memory verse on a sheet of chart paper, leaving a blank for the words “earth”, “everything”, “world”, and “live”. Display it near the session title banner, with a pen or marker nearby.
- Obtain from a teaching picture file a picture of God’s creation, of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, or some similarly appropriate picture.
- Make a copy of the learner’s page for each student and provide pencils.

### Introduce Session

Call for a volunteer to read the session title banner. Explain that today's study will help us learn what stewardship is, and in the next few weeks we will learn ways to be good stewards.

### Memory Verse

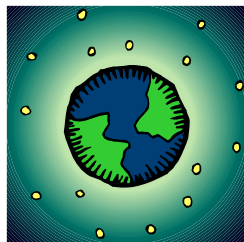
Direct children to find Psalm 24:1 in their Bibles. Indicate the blanks in the memory verse poster, and ask for volunteers to write in the missing words. Lead the group to read the verse together, saying the filled-in words in a whisper and the rest of the words at normal volume. Repeat. Then have children read the verse several times saying the filled-in words loudly. Finally, cover up or turn around the poster to have children say the verse without seeing the words.

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it. (Psalm 24:1)

### Tell the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Genesis 1 and tell the following story:

The very first verse in the Bible reads, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." At first everything was dark and empty, so God said "Let there be light," and He made day and night. That was the first day. On the second day God made the sky. On the third day, He separated the ocean from the land and made trees and plants to grow on the land. Then God made the sun, the moon, and the stars on the fourth day. Next He made the creatures that live in the sea and the birds that fly. That was on the fifth day. On day six, God made the animals that live on land, and He made people. God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. And on the seventh day, God rested.



When God made the first person, Adam, He put him in a special garden He had made. It was called the Garden of Eden. God gave Adam the job of giving names to all of the animals. God brought each kind of animal to Adam, and whatever Adam called it, that became its name. God knew that Adam needed someone to help him, so He created a woman, Eve. Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden and took care of the things God had made.

*Genesis 1-2*

### Review the Bible Story

Indicate the signs hung around the room, and the teaching picture if you have one. Ask the following questions:

- What did God create first? (Light, or day and night – Gen. 1:3)
- What did God create last? (People – Gen. 1:27)
- What were the first people's names? (Adam & Eve – Gen. 1:20; 4:1)
- Where did Adam and Eve live? (Garden of Eden – Gen. 1:15)
- What two jobs did God give to Adam? (Name the animals – Gen. 1:19, take care of the garden and work it – Gen. 1:15)



### Pray

Point out that because God created everything, it all belongs to Him, even people. Lead them to say the memory verse again (Ps. 24:1). God chooses to share His creation with us, to let us use and enjoy it. Everything we have comes from God, the creator, even inventions that people have made, because God is the One who gives people the minds and creativity to invent things! Lead the children to think of one thing they can thank God for, and have them say sentence prayers of thanks.