First Sunday School Lesson
“Who Owns Everything, Anyway?”

Teacher’s Guide

Purpose of the lesson:
1. To explore the concept that everything we have comes from God, Who created everything (Colossians 1:15-17)
2. To create an asset inventory for each student
3. To investigate our role as a steward and develop a workable definition of stewardship
4. To define a steward’s attitude as one of gratefulness and obedience (Coloss 1:18-23)

What you will need:
1. Student handouts
2. Inventory sheets
3. Bibles for everyone (best if they use the same translation)

How to prepare for and teach this lesson:
Read and become familiar with Colossians 1:15-23. Split the passage into two parts: Colossians 1:15-17 and then 1:18-23. Note the phrases in section one that describe everything belonging to God. For the second section, the importance is on how much God has given us and what our attitude should be in response.

Section 1
During class, have the students fill out their asset inventory. Explain the headings when you hand it out and give them 5-8 minutes to complete the inventory. These can be filled out individually or in small groups.

After the time is up, ask the students:
• Where did you get your things? (Store, gifts, with money they earned)
• Where did you get your talents and abilities? (Parents, practice, God)
• Where did you get your body? (God created us)
• Where do you get your time? (God gives us each day)

Hopefully their answers will lead them to answer that all they own comes from God. Emphasize- God is the source of everything. He is the provider of everything we need. God is the actual owner of all we have. What we “own” has been entrusted to us from Him.
Section 2
Have students read and study Colossians 1:15-17. What phrases in that passage say God is the owner? (See verses 16 and 17)
Have students create an ownership hierarchy OR create a business card for Christ. (See sample at end)

If God, through Christ, is the owner, what are we? We are a steward of all God has entrusted to us.

Some simple definitions:
Asset: item of ownership; complete resources of a person; a useful or desirable thing or quality.
Steward: a person who manages another’s property or financial affairs; one responsible for assets entrusted to him; a person who takes care of something or someone for someone else.

Give examples of a steward:
-a babysitter takes care of a child “owned” by someone else
-an accountant manages the finances of another
-we steward our talents, stuff, bodies, time and relationships- God owns them; we are entrusted to do something with them for Him.

If God owns everything, what is my steward attitude to be?
Read Colossians 1:18-23

1. Grateful- for all Christ has given us (v. 21-22: He gave His life to bring us to God)
2. Obedient- do what God says to do with my stuff because He created me, He created it, and He knows and wants what is best for me (v. 23: Must continue to stand firm)
3. Glorifying to God- What God gives me, I give back to Him. I use my assets to give glory to God (v. 18: God is first over everything)

Other scriptures to incorporate:
• Psalm 50:10-12: “The cattle on a thousand hills is mine”
• James 1:17-18: “Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of Lights, in whom there is no shifting shadow”
• Leviticus 25:23: The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants.

Business Card Sample

Jesus Christ
Earth Mission, Inc.
102 Lake Galilee Drive
Capernaum, Galilee

Office (800) 777-7777
Cell 7he-aven
Student Worksheet for Lesson One
“Who Owns Everything, Anyway?”

My assets are ____________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Colossians 1:16 says “For by Him ________________________ were created: things in
_______ and on ________, visible and invisible, whether thrones or ________,
or rulers or ___________; all things were created _____ Him and _____ Him.”

The actual owner of my assets is: ________________________

Read Colossians 1:15-18. Develop an ownership hierarchy from the passage.

Example: God: creator of all
Jesus______________________________________________________________

If ________________ owns all of my assets, my role is to be a _________________.

A steward is someone who____________________________________________

____________________________ For example _________________________________.

As a steward I am: (Colossians 1:18-23)

1. Grateful

2. Obedient

3. Glorifying to God

Write out a prayer thanking God for everything He has entrusted to you. Thank Him for
the gift of a relationship with Him. Write out thoughts and prayers for your heart towards
this study on giving to God’s work through the church.
## Asset Inventory

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<th>Things</th>
<th>Talents/Abilities</th>
<th>People/Relationships</th>
<th>Physical Body</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>Run fast or sing</td>
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