

# 5 MOVING BEYOND “ME”

## Start the Conversation

*Read This Story, and Then Join in With Your Own ...*

One morning I got brave and asked God what He wanted me to do with my money. It's not that I had a lot of money. It's just that I never really learned about money, and I was wondering what God thought about it. He must have been waiting on the edge of his seat for me to ask this question, because He answered immediately.

“You should find out the difference between management and stewardship,” He seemed to say to me. *Huh*, I thought. *What did He just tell me?*

## Talk It Out

*Don't Hide What's Inside—Open Up!*

- How would you describe the difference between management and stewardship?
- In the past month, what need(s) have you seen outside of your home or your family that you had the resources to meet?
- Do you ever feel frustrated because you sense you don't have enough time, money, or talent?
- How might a stewardship perspective impact that perception?

## Engage God's Word

*Read Matthew 22:37-40*

- What is the first and greatest commandment?
- What is the second commandment?
- Why do these two commandments go hand-in-hand?
- Why are these the only two commandments?

## Discover Real Change

### *Consider How You Can Apply God's Word*

Everywhere I look—magazines, newscasts, billboards, TV—advertising messages encourage me to find someone or some tool to help me manage my money. But, as I began to understand the difference between management and stewardship, I noticed something significant. Management has to do with a perception that the resources are mine and for me. But stewardship understands the resources belong to someone else, and they have been entrusted to me to distribute where there is a need. Management puts the focus on me, and stewardship puts the focus on others. And this stewardship includes not just money, but also time and talents. All of it has been entrusted to us by God, so that we can be His hands and feet in order to serve others.

- What is one practical step you can take today to move beyond “me”?
- What is the biggest obstacle in your life to being able to love others as you love yourself?
- Do you ever feel frustrated because you sense you don't have enough time, money, or talent?
- How might a stewardship perspective impact that perception?

## Go Deeper

### *Read These Passages on Your Own*

- John 3:29-31
- Micah 6:7-8
- James 1:27