

POINT OF IMPACT

DAY 1

Using the **PARAPHRASE IT** Bible study method, **READ** Psalm 24:1 several times and say it your own words.

Who owns this earth (everything and everyone in it)? NAME some personal things the phrase “*everything in it*” includes (*i.e. my home, my work, my car, my marriage - belongs to the Lord*).

NAME specific people who come to mind when you read the phrase “*all who live in it.*” **WRITE** down this verse and keep it visible/accessible somewhere or **PROGRAM** it as a reminder for every few hours. When you see it, **THINK** about what you were doing when you saw the reminder... paying bills, working, studying, running errands, standing at the checkout, driving through the beautiful autumn countryside. **PRAY**, acknowledging God's awesomeness while in awe of all that is His. My job, that landscape, or this person... All belong to God and are intended for His glory.

DAY 2

READ Acts 17:24-25, James 1:17 and Colossians 1:15-16.

What do these verses say about the rightful owner of all things?

What has God given us? Whom was everything created for?

OWNERSHIP VS. STEWARDSHIP

What do you own? God, as Creator, retains ownership of all things.

READ 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

Whenever we start laying claims on things as ours, we become guilty of trying to usurp God's stuff (*what's rightfully His*). Living as an **owner** results in living for myself. But as a **steward**, I'm responsible for managing what's been given in such a way as the **owner** desires.

We're not owners.

We're stewards responsible to the owner for everything He's given us.

Take out your note (*or reminder prompt*) from **DAY 1**. Today as you look at Psalm 24:1, **THINK** about what you were doing when you saw the reminder. **ASK** yourself: *Am I acting like an owner in this situation? If so, which of my attitudes/behaviors must change? Contrast this with being a steward.* **ASK** the Holy Spirit to speak and guide you as you seek to honor God with what He's entrusted to you.

DAY 3

READ 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 and Matthew 6:9-10.

Reconciliation is about putting things back into right relationship. Jesus brings reconciliation to every aspect of the universe. As His followers and stewards of all He's given, we become ambassadors whom represent His kingdom to a broken world. If we fail to be good stewards, we jeopardize our ability to make the impact we've been called to make.

LOOK at Matthew 6:10 again. *When you think of God's kingdom, and things being on earth as in heaven, what do you think of?*

READ Isaiah 61:1-4.

PRAY: Father, You're the God of reconciliation. You desire restoration in each of our relationships. Help me to live in the right relationship with You, others, and the rest of creation. Show me how to wisely manage all you've entrusted to me and help me to be faithful in bringing Your kingdom to the broken things of this world.

DAYS 4 & 5 - A THEOLOGY OF POVERTY

We've learned that living as owners results in living for ourselves, but what about living as stewards? During our **POINT OF IMPACT** series, we seek to discover the principles God has given us to live wisely and faithfully.

TAKE the next couple days to work through the Biblical principles which deal with how we can live as responsible stewards.

Responsibility for...

Yourself: **READ** Leviticus 23:3 and 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 10-15.

Regarding our responsibility to work to provide for ourselves, what's implied in these verses? What's your personal attitude toward working and providing for yourself?

DO YOU...

- **BEGRUDGE** the fact that you have to work?
- **DO** as little as possible to simply get by?
- **THINK** others should help provide for you (*family members, society, etc.*)?
- **LOOK** for shortcuts to wealth (*lottery, get rich quick schemes*)?

Your Family: **READ** Leviticus 19:32, Exodus 20:12, 1 Timothy 5:3-4, 16.

Strong families make for strong communities. *Which principles regarding our responsibility to our families are outlined in these verses? How might these principles translate to your own family?*

Your Tribe: **THINK** of your tribe in terms of your job, your community, your church, your small group. **READ** Leviticus 25:39-42 and Acts 2:44-45. *How do these verses describe the principle of helping those around you? Who could be considered your countrymen or your tribe?*

Your Edge: **READ** Leviticus 19:9-10, 22.

DESCRIBE “*do not reap to the very edges of your field*” in terms of our lives today. *Do you have edges in your life right now? Are you maxed out? Do you have edges in your finances? Your time? Is your life edgeless due to mismanagement or materialism? What steps can you take to increase your edges? Is the concept of having edges new to you? If so, how does it change or perhaps challenge your thinking about your responsibility as a steward?*

REFLECT on what God has revealed to you this week. *How will you respond to what God has shown you?*