

WHOLE *life* FULL *heart*



JOIN US ON A FOUR-WEEK WESLEYAN STEWARDSHIP JOURNEY
4 - 25 October 2026

Relocating and Repositioning your LIFE with a full HEART:

A 4-WEEK WESLEYAN STEWARDSHIP JOURNEY



This four-week series guides us on a practical and biblical journey from receiving God's grace to living generously in every area of life. We are called to stop, discern, relocate, reposition and anchor

ourselves in God as we continue the journey. The Church is like a ship at sea, carrying the precious cargo of the Gospel while navigating powerful winds, changing currents and storms. The answer is not to abandon the ship, but to keep her on course.

Rooted in the conviction that God owns and provides all things, the sessions explore how disciples respond with love, sacrifice and joy; how churches nurture generosity through fellowship, compassion and mission; and how leaders model, teach and sustain a culture of faithful stewardship.

Theme	Core Principles
Week 1: God Is Generous	1. God owns everything 2. God provides enough 3. God gave Jesus
Week 2: Disciples Become Generous	4. Disciples respond lovingly 5. Disciples live sacrificially 6. Disciples find joy
Week 3: Churches Grow Generosity	7. Giving builds family 8. Giving loves neighbors 9. Giving reaches the lost
Week 4: Leaders Shape Generosity	10. Leaders go first 11. Leaders teach generosity 12. Leaders celebrate sustainability

Through Scripture, reflection, discussion and practical activities, participants will be encouraged to recognize every gift and resource as entrusted by God and to use them responsibly in service of the Church, their neighbors and God's mission.

The series is structured around **12 Biblical Generosity Core Principles**, grouped into four thematic clusters reflecting the nature of generosity in discipleship and leadership.

As we begin this journey, may we open our whole lives and full hearts to God's renewing work. May this series help us realign our priorities, strengthen our discipleship and grow together as a generous people who reflect God's grace in practical, joyful and faithful ways.

HOME GROUPS AND CLASSES GUIDE:

1. Open in Worship and Prayer: this is to invite God into the meeting. For example, you can light a candle, sing together, or use a YouTube Hymn or song.
2. Open your Bibles and read the Bible verses for this week (take turns?) see below.
3. Reflect on the Bible verses and the reflection written by a Minister or Lay Preacher.
4. Connect with each other and take the reflection deeper by answering the Questions.
5. Works out: Practical Activity. Keep each other accountable for promises made or important steps taken. Pray for and over each other (after taking prayer requests).

Week 4: Leaders Shape Generosity

Week 4 Summary: This week focuses on leaders who model, teach and sustain generosity. Its objective is to equip leaders to go first, serve humbly, communicate biblical stewardship clearly and develop accountable practices that encourage long-term participation in God's mission. We are all leaders and influencers where we are.

WORSHIP SONG: "Take My Life and Let It Be" Frances Ridley Havergal. A prayer of consecration: our hands, time, gifts, possessions and whole lives belong to God.

<https://youtu.be/y3gWwGDGgVA?si=DD-7dJlI2B2GWhC>

KEY SCRIPTURE AND STORIES: John 13:1-17 (Jesus washes feet), Acts 4:36-37 (Barnabas), I Corinthians 9:7-14

REFLECTION ON THE BIBLE VERSES: XHANTI MHLUBULWANA (*Lay Preacher*)

Reflection: From ownership to faithful stewardship

Beloved in Christ, our four-week journey has reminded us that God is generous, disciples respond to grace, and the Church becomes a community of generous love. We conclude with a demanding question: what kind of example do we set as leaders? In the Methodist tradition, leadership is not first a position, title or privilege. It is a calling to holiness of heart and life, expressed through love of God and neighbour.

John Wesley taught that we are stewards, not absolute owners, of what God places in our care. Our abilities, opportunities, possessions and time are entrusted to us for God's purposes. His sermon "The Good Steward" (Sermon 51, on Luke 16:2) reminds us that stewardship involves an account of how we have used what we received. It therefore reaches far beyond a Sunday offering: it concerns the whole pattern of Christian living.

1. Leaders go first: the towel before the title (John 13:1-17). Jesus, knowing that he is Lord and Teacher, kneels to wash the feet of his disciples. His authority becomes visible through service. "I have set you an example" (John 13:15). The Methodist leader must therefore ask: do people experience my leadership as care, humility and practical love? The Class Leader who visits the isolated, the steward who protects the vulnerable, the preacher who serves without applause, and the member who gives time to a struggling neighbour all demonstrate stewardship. We do not lead by demanding sacrifices we refuse to make ourselves.

Wesley's General Rules call Methodists to do no harm, to do good, and to attend upon the ordinances of God. The second rule especially urges us to do good in every possible way, including caring for bodies and souls. This is generosity as a disciplined way of life, not a once-off financial campaign. Our personal piety must be accompanied by social holiness: prayer and worship are inseparable from mercy, justice and neighbourly care.

2. Leaders teach by their lives: grace becomes practical love (Acts 4:36-37). Barnabas sells a field and entrusts the proceeds to the apostles. He is not remembered only for a transaction: elsewhere in Acts he encourages, welcomes and accompanies others. His generosity includes resources, relationships, trust and personal presence. The Wesleyan question is not merely "How much can I give?" but "How faithfully can I use all that I have been given?"

Wesley's counsel in "The Use of Money" (Sermon 50) is often summarised as "Gain all you can, save all you can, give all you can." These are not three disconnected slogans. Earning must be honest and must not injure ourselves or others; saving means resisting waste and unnecessary indulgence; giving directs our resources towards real needs and God's work. In this sense, stewardship includes ethical earning, responsible spending, wise management and generous sharing. Leaders should teach this without pressure, shame or promises of material reward.

Historically, Methodist Class Meetings joined spiritual encouragement to mutual accountability. Members were invited to speak honestly about their discipleship and support one another in holy living. That tradition challenges our Societies and Circuits to make stewardship a shared Christian practice: prayerfully examining our priorities, caring for the poor, nurturing the gifts of every member, and accounting openly for resources entrusted to the Church.

3. Leaders sustain mission with integrity (1 Corinthians 9:7–14). Paul explains that those who labour in Gospel ministry may rightly be supported by the community. The passage is not permission for entitlement or exploitation. It is a reminder that ministry has real human and material needs, and that justice, mutual responsibility and faithful provision matter. Stewardship therefore includes supporting ministry, maintaining places of worship, serving communities and managing Church funds with transparency and care.

In Wesleyan practice, generosity must remain connected to the means of grace and the works of mercy. A financially secure congregation that neglects discipleship or the poor has misunderstood its calling. Equally, a congregation that wishes to serve but refuses responsible planning and accountability may place its mission at risk. Sustainable ministry is neither hoarding nor constant fundraising; it is faithful provision for worship, formation, evangelism and compassionate service.

Our challenge is to relocate and reposition our hearts. Let us move from ownership to trusteeship; from status to service; from occasional giving to disciplined generosity; from private religion to practical holiness; and from financial appeals to accountable participation in God's mission. Every member has something to offer: time, talents, treasure, compassion, wisdom, hospitality or prayer.

As this series ends, the real test will not be the amount collected, but whether our homes, Classes and Societies are becoming more Christlike. Let our leadership be measured by the people we serve, the trust we build, the gifts we nurture and the mission we sustain. Jesus takes the towel; Barnabas shares what he has; Paul calls the Church to responsible support. May we do likewise, through the grace of God. Amen.

SMALL-GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Where do I need to take the towel and serve before asking others to serve (John 13:15)?
2. How can Wesley's "gain, save, give" teaching reshape my use of time, talents and money?
3. What can our Class or Society do to connect prayer and worship more deliberately with works of mercy?
4. How can we support ministry fairly while ensuring transparent financial stewardship and trust?
5. What one accountable practice should continue after this four-week series?

WEEKLY PRACTICAL ACTIVITY: LEADERS GO FIRST

Each person commits to one humble, concrete act of service this week: visit someone isolated, mentor a young person, assist a family in need, volunteer a skill, reconcile a relationship, or contribute responsibly to a ministry need. At the next Class or group meeting, share what was learned, not amounts given. Agree on one sustainable practice and identify who will follow it up.

Closing prayer

Gracious God, from whom every good gift comes, forgive us when we mistake ownership for stewardship and status for service. Give us the mind of Christ, who took the towel and washed his disciples' feet. Make us faithful in earning, careful in using, generous in sharing, and honest in accounting for all you entrust to us. Renew our Classes, Societies and Circuits in personal and social holiness. May our time, talents, treasure, and influence serve your Gospel and our neighbors. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Wesleyan sources for further reflection - John Wesley, Sermon 51, "The Good Steward"; Sermon 50, "The Use of Money"; "The Nature, Design, and General Rules of the United Societies" (1743).
Biblical texts: John 13:1–17; Acts 4:36–37; 1 Corinthians 9:7–14.

DAILY DEVOTIONS: WEEK 4

MONDAY — Memory Verse: "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." — John 13:15

Prayer: Jesus, give me the humility to lead as You led. Help me follow Your example by choosing service over status.

TUESDAY — Memory Verse: "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." — John 13:14

Prayer: Lord, show me where I must go first in humble service. Let my leadership be practical, sincere and generous.

WEDNESDAY — Memory Verse: “He sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.” — Acts 4:37

Prayer: Thank You for the example of Barnabas. Give me courage to release resources for the good of Your people and Your mission.

THURSDAY — Memory Verse: “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” — I Corinthians 9:14

Prayer: Father, help me teach stewardship clearly and graciously, and help our church support ministry with wisdom, honor and accountability.

FRIDAY — Memory Verse: “Whoever ploughs and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.” — I Corinthians 9:10

Prayer: Give leaders integrity and wisdom as they steward resources. May those who labor faithfully be treated justly and supported responsibly.

SATURDAY — Memory Verse: “The worker deserves his wages.” — I Corinthians 9:9

Prayer: Lord, help us build sustainable practices that honor service, recognize gifts and care faithfully for those who carry ministry responsibilities.

SUNDAY — Memory Verse: “Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” — John 13:17

Prayer: Lord, shape me into a servant leader who practices what You teach, inspires trust and directs every resource towards Your mission. Amen.

FAMILY DEVOTION:

Week 4: IT WAS NEVER OURS TO BEGIN WITH

Opening song: Rea ho boka Morena <https://youtu.be/t3Qs8yIuZMo?si=rwgCWCh30WBNMQsC>

Read: I Chronicles 29:14 “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.” (NIV)

Imagine you lent your friend your new book or video game but when it’s time to return it, they grumble, bargain with you and if they do return it, they do so begrudgingly with a bad attitude. You’d probably think, haibo! That was mine in the first place.

This is kind of how it is with us when we don’t use our talents, skills or money towards God’s purposes. When we are reluctant, hesitant and even bargain before we give God what belongs to him.

I Chronicles 29:14 reminds us that everything we have came from God’s hand first. What He has given us was never meant for us to keep for ourselves. It was given to us to demonstrate God’s love to the world around us.

So when we share our gifts or give generously, we aren’t losing anything of our own. We are simply returning to God what was His all along.

Reflection

1. In which areas have you found it hard to be generous?
2. Write down one practical way you can be generous in the upcoming weeks.

Pray about it

God thank you for the gifts you’ve given to me. Thank you for providing for me. Give me a joyful heart that gives freely, knowing that everything belongs to you. In Jesus name, Amen.