



Growing in God's Word

So, what does following Jesus look like?

But the [fruit of the Spirit](#) is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. – Galatians 5:22-25

EXPECTATION ONE:

Spend time with God! “Keep in step with the Spirit!” The best way to “get to know” God is to read His Story and to pray! Learning God’s Story will impact your life more than any other activity in all the world. As you learn God’s Story, you will discover meaning in your own story. You will discover how **you are part of His story** and the significance of that reality in your life.

Read. Learn. Struggle with. Mark up. Remember. Listen. Watch. Do all of these things with God’s Story. It is His WORD and it is power.

[I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.](#) – Romans 1:16

Resources:

- The Bible Project: “Read Scripture” app for your mobile device. Visit <http://readscripture.org>
- Helpful teaching videos: <http://www.youtube.com/thebibleproject>
- Online Bible sites: www.biblia.com • www.biblegateway.com • www.openbible.info
- Other Good Bible apps: **YouVersion** • **Logos BIBLE!**
- Good Bible Translations: “Whichever one you read!” (NIV, ESV, NLT, etc.)

Each week we post our Sermons, Studies and other Resources on our Website at www.branson.church.

Growing As God's Stewards

What is a “steward”?

[God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.”](#) – Genesis 1:28

Check out → The Bible Project’s Video: “**Image of God**”

Stewardship is: **God’s people living responsibly within their God-given relationships.**

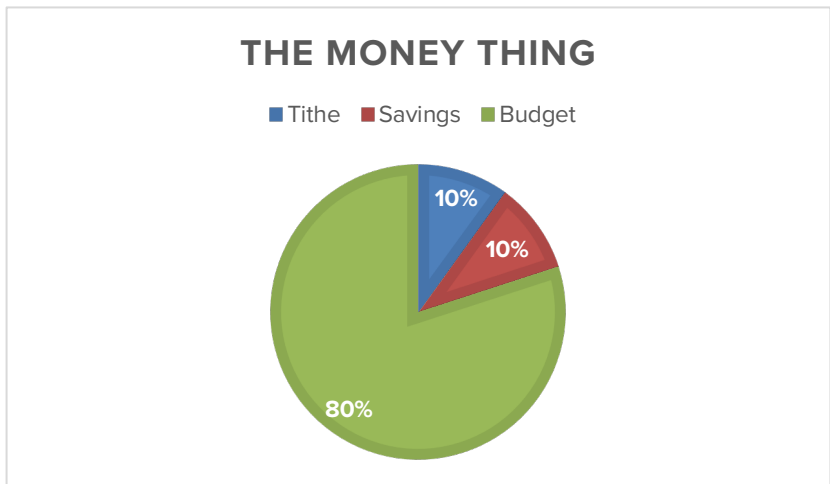
Each individual is part of community. Regardless of being married or single, we exist in community. The only variable is the number and dynamic of our relationships. Married people may have more relationships inside their household, but the household still interacts with other households. Those households come together into a larger community called the Church (from the Bible’s word: **ekklesia**).

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. – Acts 2:42-47

EXPECTATION TWO:

Honor your responsibilities in your household and then, in turn, the Church. This includes every aspect of our lives.

The “money” thing: Simply put, Praise & Worship does not ask you to give money “for God” or “to God” or anything like this. **God doesn’t need money. He owns the universe.** Instead, we direct you to God’s Word and ask you to honor your responsibilities to one another. **God wants hearts, not wallets.**



God’s plan for stewarding your time, talents and treasure is simple: Take what God gives you and be responsible for it. Build a life of trusting God for all things and sharing with others as they have need.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. – 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Dig Deeper: Malachi 3:10, Luke 6:38, Luke 12:33-34, Galatians 6:6-10, Matthew 6:19-21, Proverbs 2:37, Philippians 4, Hebrews 7:8-9

Growing as God's Priests

We are a kingdom of priests so **whatever we do** is sacred. Therefore we are learning how to be an everyday missionary no matter where we go or what we do.

EXPECTATION THREE:

Join Jesus on His Mission.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. – 1 Peter 2:9-10

“Joining” Praise & Worship

See: The Praise & Worship Constitution (included in your packet)

Ask Questions // Have Discussion!

Since all who are “in Christ” are members of His Body, the question remains: would you like to **Partner with us** in the Gospel?

You are invited! Upon your decision, we will plan a special worship service where everyone is introduced and you are received into the fold!
