

Providing for Children and Family

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, as Creator and Lord of life, You gave us the family unit as Your foremost gift—to enrich our earthly days and transform us into holy vessels of Your love. Be with us as we study what Scripture says about caring for others’ temporal and spiritual welfare. Help us to surrender to You all we’ve been entrusted with for Your divine purposes. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Purpose

In the last chapter, we discussed the biblical definition of stewardship, its vital importance in our everyday lives, and the steps we can take to ensure that we are stewarding (i.e., investing) our resources well. Now let’s turn to the effect our stewardship has on others.

In this chapter we will delve deeper into how our approach to stewardship (and specifically, estate planning) affects our families. We will tackle some tough questions.

- What are parents’ responsibilities for their children and other family members when it comes to estate planning?
- How can parents judge whether they are being “fair”?
- Is there such a thing as passing on “too much” to children?
- Does it matter *when* a child receives an inheritance?

These thorny issues are nothing new. As luck (or something else!) would have it, the Bible recounts a number of stories in which some pretty well-known characters wrestle with