

## Opening Prayer

*Dear Lord, having deepened our understanding of Your teachings on wealth and possessions, be with us today as we look more closely at Your definition of stewardship. We desire to live as responsible children of one family, imitating Your Son's example as a pattern for our own lives. Thank You for the wisdom You provide through Your Word. Amen.*

## Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to define the biblical idea called “stewardship” and help us make its meaning integral to our everyday lives – and to how we approach the vital responsibility of creating a God-centered estate plan.

For Christians, stewardship is a way of living in which a grateful offering of our blessings back to God takes on primary importance. Because estate planning is intricately tied to our many material blessings, we can easily see that applying principles of stewardship to the process is not only advantageous, but necessary for our spiritual welfare.

## Stewardship and Responsibility

Say the word “stewardship” and most people immediately envision charitable giving, dropping off food for the poor, tithing to God, and serving others with time, talent, and treasure. In its fullest sense though, stewardship encompasses a much broader philosophy, *going beyond* mere acts of giving or nurturing, while still embracing both.

Charitable behavior is a spontaneous decision, often limited