



# Christian Stewardship

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Timothy Leadership Training Institute

[www.tlti.org](http://www.tlti.org)

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1<sup>st</sup> Edition © 2004



## Introduction

Welcome to this second TLT training module which follows the manual Caring for God's People. You have already studied that manual and are now applying it in your life and your Christian service.

Through this manual, Christian Stewardship, you will explore the material gifts God has entrusted us. You will also discover ways to use those gifts to honor God and be of service to others.

During certain periods of Church history, God's people tended to neglect these gifts. The Church taught that the invisible part of human life and the invisible spirit world were so important that the material, visible aspects of the Christian life were neglected or even devalued.

Through a careful study of Scripture, we learn that the material world is of great value to our Creator God. As human beings, we are given the responsibility to manage and care for this material world. God takes this responsibility very seriously and we must also.

Whether you are a church leader, a parent or a young person, this manual will provide encouragement and guidance as you discover God's material gifts and put them to good use.

Working through this manual, you will:

- Interact with Scripture and your co-participants to appreciate the material and temporal gifts that God gives us.
- Become familiar with the 7 Ts of responsible Christian living.
- Identify specific areas of engagement for the development of the material world.
- Discover the principles and practice of joyful, generous giving in your personal and Church life.
- Continue to write, review and accomplish Kingdom oriented action plans.
- Continue to develop your skills as a TLT facilitator and receive feedback on that ability.

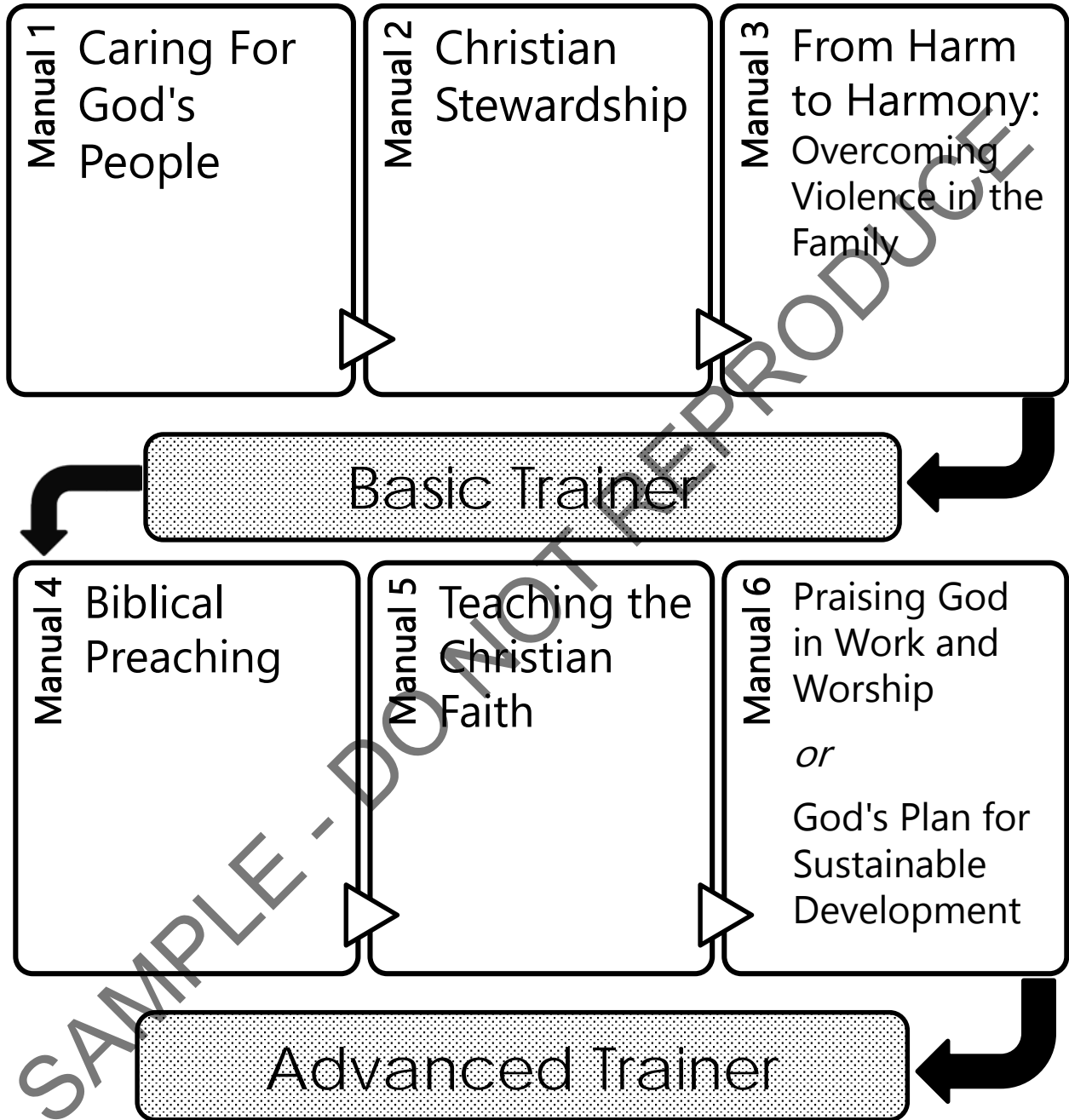
As you work through the manual, continue to think of those who you may train using it in your local church or elsewhere. Whether you are a pastor, evangelist or lay leader, this manual will provide you with a tool to train others on many different levels: parents, Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders, elders and deacons. In your group, discuss how God can use you to train others, even those from other churches or from outside your area.

Before working through this manual in your group, we encourage you to briefly review Lesson 1 of the manual Caring for God's People: ***Great Things with God***. We are confident that God will continue to bring significant changes to your church and your community through your training.



## Timothy Leadership Training Certification

This is the path for Basic and Advanced Trainer certification by Timothy Leadership Training Institute.



\*Note: to receive an official TLTI certificate you must be trained by a TLTI certified trainer following standard guidelines. Trainers report trainings and request certificates through [reporting@tlti.org](mailto:reporting@tlti.org).



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## Participant Testimonies

The following testimonies come from participants around the world. More such testimonies are available on the Timothy Leadership Training website.

### ASIA

#### Bangladesh

Before TLT, 9,000 taka was collected at the women's society annual camp. Because of the chairperson's teaching on Christian stewardship during visits to churches and regional GBC meetings (and God's grace), they collected 16,000 taka at the next annual camp.

#### India

A village pastor working in his remote village surrounded by hills took very seriously what he learned about God's gift of creation and how we can be good stewards of it. In response to deforestation, he began teaching his church what he had learned from TLT training about stewardship of God's gift of the earth and then took action to stop the deforestation and plant trees. The Department of Forestry heard about what was happening and gave 40 acres of government land to the village to begin growing coffee. This government project will be a great help to the entire village.

### LATIN AMERICA

#### Cuba

Two families in a congregation were unemployed and in great need. To one, the congregation provided a small loan, and with those funds this family raised a couple of pigs. To the other family they offered a cleaning job. Both families are now in a better financial situation.

#### El Salvador

One pastor reported that he decided to ask each cell group member for the equivalent of .50 USD each week as a love offering for the poor within the cell network he leads. These funds were used for job training and buying food baskets for the most needy. Eleven people were trained for various jobs.

### AFRICA

#### Zambia

One pastor says his church has been able to give more than ever before. This church stands as the first one in the diocese to buy a motorcycle for the pastor. They are now constructing a church building.

#### Kenya

"My church has a budget now. Once a month I read the church's financial report to the congregation. I planted trees and bananas and bought a dairy cow. After completing training, two of my church members are now selling local products to support their families."



## Reminder to TLT Trainers

### Lesson Procedure

TLT lessons follow 4 steps:

- 1) **Report** - At the beginning of each lesson (except for the 1<sup>st</sup> lesson) each participant presents the report of what was accomplished since the last lesson.
- 2) **Reflect, discover, and discuss** - Then, participants read Scripture and discuss together the related questions. It is often helpful to read the Bible texts in their context. Group discussion trains participants to listen carefully to each other and to present their ideas clearly.
- 3) **Plan** - Participants write a plan to put into practice what they have learned. They report on that plan at the beginning of the following lesson.
- 4) **Pray** - At the end of each lesson, participants commit their plans to God.

*TLT training is for those who are prepared to make plans, to put their plans into action between the lessons, and then report on them during the next lesson. Most TLT learning takes place between the lessons as participants work their plans.*

### Inductive training

TLT training is not like classroom teaching when the teacher stands up in front of the class and talks while students listen and take notes. TLT training is interactive and *inductive*. *Inductive* means that during a lesson participants talk more than the trainer. An inductive trainer asks good questions and then gives participants time to reflect and discuss. A TLT trainer is like a good mathematics teacher who gives the class a problem to solve ... and then leaves the students **time to reflect** to find the answer instead of just giving them the solution!

Participants in TLT training discover new ideas and practices through their **own** reflection and discussion. And then they use what is learned to formulate and accomplish their **own** action plans for Kingdom change.

When you begin TLT training, you may find it difficult to teach in an inductive way. You may be talking more than other participants during a lesson. In that case, you must work to develop a more *inductive* style. It is often helpful to break into smaller groups so that each participant can reflect and discuss what is being learned.

A good trainer has already put into practice what is taught in the manuals and can tell how TLT brings change in the church and community. Good trainers also show that each participant is a valued member of the group and provide individual encouragement and assistance, even between training sessions.

**Reminder:** The last two lessons, the 4-6 Month Action Plan and its Report, are very important and should not be skipped!



## LESSON 1

### Stewardship in the Bible

#### 1. The Great Commission - Matthew 28:16-20

*What did Jesus command his disciples to do?*

*What did Jesus command his disciples to teach?*

*What are some of the things Jesus taught? Make a list together of some things Jesus taught.*

#### 2. Jesus' Parables - Luke 10:30-37; 12:16-21; 12:42-48; 15:4-6; and 19:12-27.

*How many of these parables talk about the good use of money and material things?*

*Can you think of any of Jesus' parables that **do not** talk about money and material things?*

#### 3. God wants us to take good care of our material things. About 500 verses in the Bible talk about prayer. About 500 verses talk about faith. Over 2000 verses talk about our material possessions.

*What material things has God given you? Make a list together.*

*Give examples of the good use of material things.*

*Give examples of the wrong use of material things.*

#### 4. Generosity. God wants Christians to learn to share willingly what they have with others. 2 Corinthians 9:6-9, 15

*Do you know a generous person?*

*What is the difference between a generous person and one who is not generous?*

*Why does God want Christians to be generous?*

#### 5. Five Principles of Christian Giving - 1 Corinthians 16:1-3

1) *Who should give?* (v.2)

2) *How often should Christians give?* (v.2)

3) *How much should Christians give?* (v.2)

4) *How should money be handled when we give together? What did Paul tell the Corinthian church to do so that **honesty, transparency and accountability** would be practiced?* (v.3)

5) *To whom should we give?* (v.1) Read also 2 Corinthians 9:1-2

*Who is in need in your church?*

**6. Giving in your church**

*What happens when these five principles are not practiced?*

*Which principles are taught and practiced in your family and your church?*

*Which principle is not being practiced very well in your family or church?*

*Make a list of reasons why that principle is not being practiced well.*

**7. MY PLAN**

**Activity:** Write one thing that you will do before the next lesson to improve your personal giving or the giving in your family or church. When will you do that?

**Goal for Kingdom Change:** Write one change that you expect to happen, by God's grace, before the next lesson, because of what you will do.

**8.** At the end of the lesson, share your plan with another person and pray together.

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