

An Outline for a 4-Week Discussion of Ask, Thank, Tell by Charles R. Lane

[Available at www.augsburgfortress.org]

→ → *Please try to read the pages for each week ahead of the gathering, so that time for discussion can be maximized.*

Session 1 Preface, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2 (pages 5 - 31)

Discipleship, Not Membership Stewardship ministry is first and foremost about making and growing disciples.

It All Belongs to God The word steward describes someone who watches over that which belongs to someone else.

Session 2 Chapters 3, 4 and 5 (pages 33 - 66)

Money and Possessions in the New Testament Jesus talks more about money and possessions than about any other topic.

Portrait of a Biblical Giver Giving intentionally, regularly, generously, first, proportionally, and cheerfully will lead a giver's heart to Jesus.

Practicing Biblical Stewardship If money is not a topic of conversation in the church, it will continue to be a problem in people's relationship with Jesus, rather than strengthening that relationship.

Session 3 Chapters 6, 7 and 8 (pages 67 - 102)

Ask: the Annual Response Program Members have the opportunity to consider the blessings God has entrusted to them, and how they feel called to respond by supporting God's work through our congregation.

Ask: Making the Pie Larger Additional giving opportunities can help create a culture of generosity within the congregation.

Improving How You Ask Finding effective ways to ask, motivating givers to respond, and focusing on the needs of the giver are all ways to encourage giving to God's work.

Session 4 Chapters 9, 10 and 11 (pages 103 - 128)

Thank Create a culture of thanksgiving so members feel appreciated, valued and needed.

Tell People want to know that their giving makes a difference in people's lives.

Organizing for Your Stewardship Ministry Build work groups made up of people selected because of the gifts God has given them.