

After a month of consideration, here's the plan:

### 1. Stay Close to Jesus

Hebrews 3:13 (NLT) - You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.

### 2. Stay Invested in the Kingdom

Luke 19:11-13 (NLT) - The crowd was listening to everything Jesus said. And because he was nearing Jerusalem, he told them a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God would begin right away. <sup>12</sup>He said, "A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. <sup>13</sup>Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, 'Invest this for me while I am gone.'"

Matthew 25:14-15 (NLT) - "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. <sup>15</sup>He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last - dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip."

### 3. Stay Connected to the Body

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT) - And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

## Study Guide

1. We can all recognize and identify with the weariness that has settled on our lives, and in the world around us. Interestingly, this tiredness coincides with the greatest opportunity for the cause of the Kingdom that we will most likely ever see. What do you see? What are your thoughts?
2. Read the two illustrations mentioned in Sunday's message (Matthew 25:14-15 and Luke 19:11-13) and note the similarities and differences. What stands out to you?
3. As you view your life and experience, how would you view your caretaking of the things that God has entrusted to you? What advice would you pass on to a young or new believer?
4. Here's a prayer model that our staff has been learning recently. It may help form your prayers in this regard.
  - Pause
  - Rejoice
  - Ask
  - Yield (this may be a key to experiencing fruitful, joyous stewardship)

## Study Guide

On Sunday we spoke about how we apply the Gifts of the Spirit. Please take a minute to go over 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

What has your experience with the Gifts of the Spirit been? Have you ever experienced them in a church setting or gathering? Share a story you have if you have one.

What about outside of a church gathering? Have you ever experienced the Gifts outside of a gathering? What was that like. Share a story you have if you have one.

It can be challenging to rework how we view things that we have experienced in a particular context. As you think about what it might be like to engage in the Gifts of the Spirit and supernatural empowerment of the Holy Spirit in your day to day outside of Sunday life, what challenges are you aware of? What is uncomfortable or anxiety inducing about that idea? What are you excited about? What do you think could happen?

Spend some time praying for each other and talking about how you can be more aware of the Holy Spirit in your day to day life (reminders, disciplines, etc.).