
Session: Bucket Lists

Description

Many people equate stewardship with giving. But the definition of stewardship is *to take care of something*. Think of all the things we take care of. Physical things like houses and cars, money, loved ones, jobs, the earth, our creativity, our minds and bodies. Many faith traditions including Christianity, consider those things that we care for to be part of a larger ecology, both human and non-human, given by God for the sake of all.

Now this doesn't mean that we shouldn't be happy or enjoy good things! But to take good care of things means to use wisdom and moderation so that those things might benefit people both in the present and in the future. The things we care for should create a ripple! Good labor should produce good fruit.

So here's a question: Are the things you steward producing good fruit? Are you distributing that fruit in a *just* manner?

What if one of your Core Family Values was to use the resources you steward to help others? Might you decide to practice living more simply in order to produce and distribute more fruit?

In other words, if you are willing to consider that the things you care for (steward) are for the sake of others then what is the implication for your home, your car, your food, your children, your creativity, your health? Would you offer someone a place to stay, a ride to the grocery store, some of your food?

In this session we'll explore your ideas about stewardship. Different families will have different beliefs about this and that's ok. It starts by talking about what you have, what you want, and what you'd like to do with those things.

If you want to get to know someone more deeply (including members of your own family), it can help to talk about what they want. This gives family members a better understanding of each person's deep-seated beliefs and motivations. This week you'll be creating and sharing your personal bucket lists. Then you'll work on a Family "Bucket List for Good".

Materials Needed

Paper and writing utensil for each family member. One piece of printer paper and colors or markers to create your Family Bucket List for Good.

Handouts

Family Giving Plan Questionnaire, Bucket List for Good Sample and Bucket List for Good Template.

What's on your bucket list?

Read aloud the quote or scripture

“The leadership of the future is based on generating internal motivation, shared ownership, and pursuit of common vision.” - Ronald Heifetz

Questions for discussion (10 minutes)

1. What motivates you? What do you hope people say about you when you aren't listening?
2. What does it mean to “get justice”? is it different for you to **get justice**, versus you **giving** it? Explain.
3. How would God define *justice*? Do you think God wants us to help create a **just** world? What does that mean? How would we do that?
4. What do our personal resources (job, money, car, house, health) have to do with justice? Should the playing field be level for all? Do we have a responsibility in that? Explain.

Rule of life activity

Bucket lists.

1. Before you start the activity (depending on whether you have children and their ages) fill out questions 1-4 on the Family Giving Plan Questionnaire (handout). If you have older kids or grown kids, I suggest you fill this out as a family. You may want to communicate that this is private family information not to be shared with others.
 2. Give each member of the family a piece of paper and writing utensil.
 3. Ask each person to quietly (by themselves) write down a bucket list of 5 things they want to have or do during their lifetime. Dream big but the items should be achievable. If they could only choose the five most special things what would they be? (5 minutes)
 4. Now each person gets to share what their five items are and why they chose those things. Note: No one in the family can criticize someone else's bucket list.
 5. After each person has shared their bucket-list, as a family discuss how each person might actually make that personal bucket-list item happen. Does it involve saving money? Carving out the time? Education? What steps does that person need to do to make that bucket list item happen during their lifetime? When would they like to do those things?
 6. Next remind everyone of your four Core Family Values.
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7. Have each person (separately on their own paper) take a few minutes and write down 5 things they'd like to have on your family's "Bucket List for Good". These are things you would like your family to do during your lifetimes that will make the world a better place. Dream big and be specific. Oftentimes they will align with your family's Core Values.
8. Now come back together. Each family member gets to share what they think your family's five Bucket List for Good items should be. Other family members listen with no judgement or criticism.
9. After everyone has shared, take out a clean piece of paper. As a family (with every family member giving input) go through each of the bucket list items and eliminate the ones that are duplicates.
10. Now have a conversation about what you think you'd like to include on your Family Bucket List for Good. Items might be small in scale or huge, it's up to you. Try to keep your list to 5 items because we want this to be achievable. (See Samples – Handouts)
11. Write your five Bucket List for Good items on the Bucket List for Good Template.
12. Under each item you will see a place for Time and Steps.
13. Discuss a date you'd like to achieve each item by and the steps you will need to take to get there.
14. Document this under each Bucket List for Good item. Decorate and post this Bucket List for Good in a place that everyone in your family can see it.
15. Now enter the to-do steps on your calendar of choice even if they are five years out.
16. As a family answer questions 4 and 5 on your Family Giving Plan Questionnaire. If your Bucket List includes giving some of this may match.

Examen

How did it go? Debrief highs and lows

1. Each person shares their favorite part of the conversation / activity and why.
 2. Each person shares their least favorite part and why.
 3. Did you do a Serving/Giving activity last week? How did it go?
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Practice

STEWARDSHIP



Serving /giving ideas for any time this week: Choose one or create your own. These can be done individually or as a group. You will be sharing your serving experience in the next session.

- Throughout one entire day notice if someone needs something and respond.
- Clean out your closet and give away some (nicer) things to a charity.
- Skip a meal and instead use that time or money to make or purchase someone else a meal. When hunger pangs strike, try to think of the person you fed with your meal.
- Volunteer with your county conservation group to plant trees.
- Put a basket or bouquet of flowers on someone's porch anonymously