

PRIORITIES

WELL DONE



A Personal or Small Group Guide for the *Stewardship* WELL DONE JOURNEY

Welcome!

Stewardship is a word that most Christians associate with tithing their income to a local church. But that is only one small facet of the greater picture. The *Stewardship Well Done Journey* is a financial roadmap founded in biblical wisdom and truth that helps you dream creatively, prioritize wisely, save and spend systematically, and give generously. This journey will lead you from a mundane, legalistic view of stewardship to the realization that wise stewardship leads to freedom and joy in Christ.

Step one is all about our priorities. We all have priorities and act upon them every day — quite often, automatically — without pausing to give serious thought to them. We prioritize our family and personal needs, our work, and even our recreation, and greater amounts of our time and resources are given to those things we're most passionate about.

What are your priorities?

How much of your time and resources are given to each of your personal priorities? *Here's an example to get you started thinking of your own priorities in life.*

Examples:	Time per day	Dollars per month
My Children's Education		\$
Ministries/Projects		\$
Work/Business Ventures		\$
Caring for family		\$

How aware are you about how you spend your time and resources?

Are you surprised by where you spend your time and resources?

A Worldview Shaped by the Lordship of Jesus

Let's take our priorities off autopilot and pause to consider them. For the Christian, our entire life is framed by our belief in God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — and that the Kingdom of God is our *home*. Giving our devotion to Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives changes the way we see the world and respond to it. *Priorities Well Done* begins with framing our worldview with Jesus as Lord of all — Lord of us.

Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. (1 Chronicles 29:11)



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Restate your priorities (listed above) in this way: "Jesus is Lord over _____."

Did saying them aloud cause any tension? Did any seem untrue?

Our Identity is Shaped by our Values

The Free Methodist Church applies this kingdom-minded, Christ-framed approach to our denominational priorities, and put it in writing: *The Free Methodist Way: Five Values that Shape our Identity*. This document is designed to center us as a Christ-centered movement on our distinctives as a rallying point for the whole church.

"Of the many values we hold dear, these five lie at the heart of our movement. We view them as a whole, each one bringing necessary balance to the others."
— *The Free Methodist Way: Five Values that Shape our Identity*

This same principle can be applied to your own life. Just as the FMC has values we hold dear, you do as well. Just as these values are at the heart of our movement, you have priorities that lie at the center of your heart. In the same way we see our values balancing one another, yours will do the same.

How do you remain accountable to the things that matter most to you?

What happens to our priorities when they are left to chance?

Life-Giving Holiness Defines the Stewardship of our Lives

Consider this quote from "Life-Giving Holiness," part of *The Free Methodist Way*.

"Forgiven and filled, we approach life with confidence that we are acceptable to God even as He continues to transform our character and behavior to become more and more like Jesus. Life-giving holiness, then, is the fruit of full surrender to the loving reign of God over every aspect of our lives, establishing within us love that is truly love."

What words or thoughts were especially meaningful to you?

To what degree is your life fully surrendered to God? Which things do you find hard to surrender to God? Why?

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Is there any part of our lives that Jesus does not care about?

When our entire being is surrendered to Jesus then our entire life becomes stewardship. How do I spend my time? How do I spend my money? Do I tend to be mindful of my actions or do I leave things to chance? When we begin to ask and answer these questions of ourselves, we have begun *The Stewardship Well Done Journey*.

An Accountability Partner and Guide

We at FMF Financial Services share your worldview. As part of the Free Methodist Church, we're here to help you attain holistic stewardship of your life. We can help you sort through your priorities and establish a plan that sets you on a course to seeing them fulfilled. We share your commitment to Christ and can help you use the resources entrusted to your care to fulfill your God-given purpose. We hope you will join us on the *Stewardship Well Done Journey*.

Let's begin the conversation. Call 800.325.8975 or email us at info@fmfoundation.org or use the QR code below to visit us on the internet. We're ready to help you take action in the direction of what you value most.

