

**1. Read Deuteronomy 10:14 and Psalm 24:1. What do these passages teach about the ownership of your possessions?**

- None of the ownership belongs to us. Everything that exists belongs to the Creator.

**2. Prayerfully evaluate your attitude of ownership toward your possessions. Do you consistently recognize the true owner of those possessions? Write a practical idea that will help you recognize God's ownership.**

- We forget that we are not the owners of our things, money, possessions etc. We act in a way that is frivolous because we believe that we are the owners of what we have. Something practical we can implement into our spending habits, is having honest and open conversations with each other and with God about what we are buying and why. In this way we are double checking our stewardship.

**3. Read 1 Chronicles 29:11-12 and Psalm 135:6. What do these verses say about God's authority and sovereignty?**

- The Lord has ultimate authority and rulership over all things. He is sovereign in that he reigns above all else. He is Creator who rules over his creation.

**4. Do you normally recognize the Lord's authority and ability to intervene in our lives? If not, how can you become more consistent in recognizing His authority?**

- We easily recognize the Lord's authority but honoring his authority is a different mindset. We understand his ability to intervene into our lives, and we turn to Him in our times of need, but daily walking in the understanding of his presence is harder to grasp. A way to increase our understanding of his place in our lives is to consistently be in daily communication with him. We should better our relationships with him individually in order to succeed in grasping our marriage as completely his territory.

**5. Read Psalm 73:2-20. Does it bother you when you see the wicked prosper? How do you reconcile this reality with the knowledge that God is in control?**

- In order to understand what we feel about the wicked, we must first admit, are we not wicked as well? Sometimes we question whether we are. Seeing the wicked prospers tends to feel unfair,

though we wish to prosper. Our desire is to become humble, grateful, and prosperous only in the things of the Lord. Together we are trying to lean into a life more like Jesus. God is in full control, so seeing others prosper has nothing to do with us and where we stand with the Lord. Only our hearts and the truth of what we honestly believe is what matters in the mindset of the Kingdom. This is what we wish to walk in daily.

**6. Read Genesis 45:4-8 and Romans 8:28. Why is it important to realize that God is in control and uses even difficult circumstances for good in the life of a godly person?**

- Struggle is hard for anyone to endure. Though true hope, true joy, can come only from the Father. Hardships sometimes feel unfair, and it's easier to live with bitterness than it is to accept that even good things can come from difficult circumstances. In order for us to successfully press on in hardship, we have to put that trust in the Lord and in order to trust him fully we must believe that he is totally in control. He has a plan, and a purpose, and he does work all things out for good.

**7. Describe a difficult circumstance you have experienced and how the Lord ultimately used it for good in your life.**

- We had to go through a time in court, together, with the father of my two older kids. We were living in Portland Michigan and because of the circumstances of the case, Jason and I ended up moving to Grand Rapids to be closer to the kids. This was a very difficult situation for us to go through together, and a really hard decision we had to make. Though we are now able to be more involved in Owen and Avalyn's lives, and we are better settled knowing this is where we will stay.

**8. Read Psalm 34:9-10; Matthew 6:31-33; and Philippians 4:19. What has the Lord promised concerning meeting your needs? How does this apply to you today?**

- Our needs are fully taken care of. Though we sometimes confuse our wants and our needs, or we need to wait more patiently for the things we want. Though we have always been provided for. We have struggled financially but we have never gone hungry or naked. We have not been homeless together nor have we ever gone without our most basic needs as a family. We have much to be grateful for, and though not all our wants are always met, our needs will always be.

**9. Read 1 Corinthians 4:2. The key to understanding God's will in finances is the proper understanding of**

**our role. What does this verse say is our requirement as stewards? What is the definition of a steward?**

- **Being a good steward begins with faithfulness. We are called to be faithful to the gifts of the father in order to steward well. Stewardship is taking what we have and using it to the benefit of God's glory, having grateful and giving hearts.**

**10. Read Luke 16:10. Describe the principle found in this verse.**

- **It doesn't matter how much you're given, you are going to handle it the same way. This is an indication of your spirit. So what you do with little is the same as what you will do with a lot. This is why the amount of money is not what truly matters, but the hearts posture.**

**11. How can you use this principle to better your life?**

- **We agree that we need to start taking better care of the small things and be more diligent in what we do have instead of always thinking it will be better when we have more.**

**12. Read Luke 16:12. Are we required to be faithful with other people's possessions? What happens if we are not?**

- **We are asked to be faithful with whatever we are given or have been entrusted to, especially when it comes to other's possessions. When we can not show care for other's possessions then we won't be trusted enough to handle our own.**