

Series Overview and Guides

2021-2022 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 5

MARCH-APRIL

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

That we engage in God's sustainable stewardship program.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.'"

—Genesis 1:28

"Be fruitful and multiply; spread out over the earth and multiply on it."

—Genesis 9:7

"And tell Archippus, 'Pay attention to the ministry you have received in the Lord, so that you can accomplish it.'"

—Colossians 4:17

"In the sport of wrestling, a champion-level wrestler will defeat an average opponent in the first period, a good opponent, in the second period. But it will be in the third period where a great opponent is defeated. Champion wrestlers continually train, not for the first period or even the second, but for the third period, for in the third period they face the greatest challenges and require the most endurance... Observing our current cultural moment and reading the pages of history painfully reminds us how few truly finish well."

—Tom Nelson
The Flourishing Pastor

Premise

why we are studying this

We live in a very odd time. People throw around the word "sustainability" as a prop for some remarkably short-sighted, unsustainable ideas. We pretend to despise "throw-away" culture yet divorce, cancel, and abandon others at an alarming rate.

The problems with our "sustainable solutions" seem to center on our very understanding of the universe. However well-intentioned, those who don't respect the true owner of something become mere thieves when they meddle. Those who reject clear instruction and provision are mere hubristic fools. Those who don't stay the course are mere hypocrites.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"In view of this [Jesus' return], we always pray for you that our God will make you worthy of his calling, and by his power fulfill your every desire to do good and your work produced by faith."

—2 Thessalonians 1:11

"I've been looking at people
And how they change with the times
And lately all I've been seeing are people
Throwing love away and losing their
minds
So what's the glory in living?
Doesn't anybody ever stay together
anymore?
And if love never lasts forever
Tell me what's forever for?"

—Michael Martin Murphy
What's Forever For?

Theme

what the study is about

God owns everything, by right of being both Creator and King. Rather than hoard His creation, He invites humans to share in managing it. This amazing opportunity is repeated even after humanity falls and the world is warped by sin. Further, God provides for His vice-regents all that is necessary. Wise humans appreciate the gift, give before the Lord, discern best avenues of stewardship, follow God's instruction, avoid distractions, and stay the course.

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours. The world and everything in it—you founded them."

—Psalm 89:1

"But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace."

—Acts 20:24

"What a sinful church needs is not deconstruction but *deep* construction. We have to forsake shallow critique to build a more faithful vision of the community of Jesus. But we cannot do it without holding to the deposit of faith we've received from the historic and global church... without the truth of Scripture... and without the Holy Spirit."

Tish Harrison Warren
*The Devil's in the Details
of Deconstruction*



Frisco Bible Church
a redeemed community

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The content of this study guide is based on the sermon and personal study notes of

Dr. M. Wayne Braudrick
Lead Pastor, Frisco Bible Church

and is developed by the Frisco Bible Curriculum Team:

Writers:

Ken Bergstedt, AJ Rinaldi, Randall Satchell, Steve Wilson

Editors:

AJ Rinaldi, Randall Satchell

Layout and Design:

Steve Wilson

SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

SERMON ACCESS ONLINE



You can watch the related sermons at www.friscobible.com/watch-messages or by scanning the QR code.

Then select **Series** and search for **Staying Power**.

PERMISSION

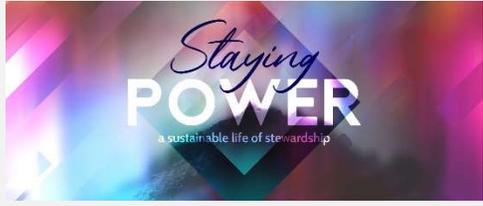
You are welcome to copy and distribute this study guide for your personal or group study.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Frisco Bible Church
8000 Sanctuary Drive
Frisco, TX 75033
972.335.8150
contactus@friscobible.com
www.friscobible.com

SERIES 5 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

UNDAUNTED

SCRIPTURE READING

Selected Scriptures

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Most of the sustainability conversations today deal with only one aspect of life – humanity and earth’s climate. While these discussions can be useful, they almost universally miss a key biblical component: God is in charge. Humans are His vice-regents tasked with stewardship, but they have neither the power nor authority to control the earth. The medieval idea of a church sexton comes close to the biblical concept – a person who serves to take care of something that both precedes and will outlast him. The sexton is not the owner; rather, he works by the grace of the true owner who is far greater than all the sextons combined.

OBJECTIVE

We serve as truly sustainable stewards over creation.

WE ALL DESIRE GOD

“The woke have adopted all the hallmarks of religion, from rituals of recognizing privilege, crafting new language, and proselytizing the holy truth to which all must conform or face eternal damnation. Pascal was right—we all desire God, and my contemporaries have filled the void in themselves with political movements and tweets.”

—Joshua Pearson
George Mason University

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we honor and praise our Creator and King.

Session 1: Staying Power with Creation

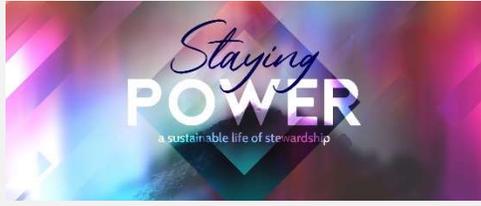
1. What comes to mind when you hear the word “sustainability”?
2. Read Psalm 89:11 and Colossians 1:16-17.
 - a. Who owns and sustains all of creation?
 - b. How does the fact that God is the creator and sustainer of everything affect your worldview? Read Psalm 71:5-6.
 - c. How does leaving God out of the equation change the way people think about this world?
3. Read Genesis 1:28 and 9:7.
 - a. What is our God-given role with respect to creation?
 - b. How does the idea of a steward (or a church sexton) fit this role?
4. Read Job 35:10-11. What is the source of our ability to understand anything about creation and all of life?
5. Read Job 38:2, 4-5, 31-35. Why is it important to humbly admit that our knowledge and understanding are limited?
6. Discuss our responses to God’s ownership and His provision for us:
 - a. God wants us to enjoy and appreciate His creation (like David in Psalm 8.) What do you appreciate the most?
 - b. God wants us to steward well. Based on Luke 14:28-30 and Luke 16:10, what are some good stewardship principles?
 - c. Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-2. What is a required trait of a steward? Why?
7. Read 2 Timothy 4:3-5. Why is “staying power” important?



Frisco Bible Church
a redeemed community

SERIES 5 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

UNDAUNTED

SCRIPTURE READING

Selected Scriptures

KEY IDEAS

THEME

God is the Senior Partner in all our labors. He reveals what that means:

- He is not a robber baron and does not countenance such.
- He is not a crony capitalist and hates such.
- He is not “woke” or Marxist.
- He hates inflation.
- He declares that root problems are not solved by laws.

To His junior partners, God provides work and the opportunity for excellence. Wise people accept those gifts and live accordingly.

OBJECTIVE

We do excellent work.

STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

“The good news is that we are not in this alone. The standards of excellence the people God are called to are *because of the cross and in spite of us.*”

—Hannah Stolze
 “What ‘Christian’ Work Looks Like”
Common Good Magazine

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we serve the Lord in all we do.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

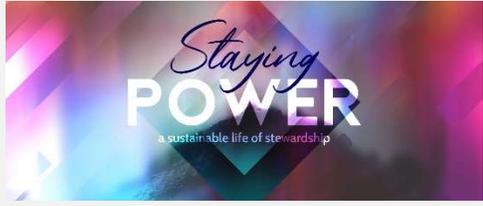
Session 2: Staying Power in Business

1. Why does business provide a ripe environment for ethical and moral misconduct?
2. Discuss each of the following. What does it say about God’s view of business or workplace practices?
 - a. Deuteronomy 24:14-15
 - b. Proverbs 20:10
 - c. Leviticus 19:15-18
 - d. Colossians 2:22-23
 - e. Amos 8:4-5
3. What is the biblical basis for the dignity of work? Discuss Genesis 2:15.
4. Read Colossians 3:22-24.
 - a. What is the Christian’s motivation to do excellent work at all times?
 - b. What exceptions or extenuating circumstances did Paul list in the verses just read?
 - c. What ways have you found effective to remember that you work for the Lord?
5. Discuss our responses and attitudes because we serve the Lord in our work.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 10:31 is a good work motto. What is it?
 - b. How do we encourage our fellow believers? Read 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13.
 - c. Read Mark 8:34-36. What is our perspective when tempted to compromise?
 - d. How do we show our trust in God to provide our needs? Read Malachi 3:8-10.
6. Read 2 Timothy 4:7. Why is “staying power” important?



SERIES 5 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

UNDAUNTED

SCRIPTURE READING

Selected Scriptures

KEY IDEAS

THEME

The Triune God, who exists in eternal relationship as Father-Son-Spirit, creates people in His image. This allows people to exist in relationship, ideally an imitative tri-unity of God-human-human. This relationship is most vividly seen in the family. God is the creator of family and provides for people through the human family. Wise humans appreciate that gift while rejecting family idolatry, follow God's stewardship commands, and stay the course.

OBJECTIVE

We are faithful to our families.

PROPER ORDER

"The word submission often carries a nasty connotation in our society, but it must be noted that submission does not mean 'inferiority.' *Submit* is a military word... that simply means, 'to arrange under rank.' A sergeant is not inferior to a lieutenant. They are equal. However, to have order in the military, authority must exist in the relationship, or chaos will ensue. When God made the husband and wife relationship, He made it with order so that it would function properly."

—Gregory Brown
Bible.org

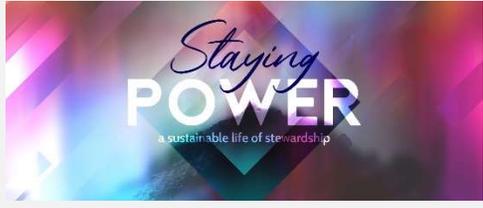
PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we remain faithful in our family relationships.

Session 3: Staying Power with Family

1. Read Genesis 2:22-24 and 1:27-28. What is the origin of the family? Why is it important to know and acknowledge this?
2. Read Matthew 5:1-7 and Proverbs 28:24.
 - a. What did the Jewish leaders teach and allow as tradition that contradicted God's word?
 - b. In what ways does this same problem exist today?
 - c. What does 1 Timothy 5:8 tell us about caring for our family?
3. Read Proverbs 1:8 and 13:1.
 - a. What is the most memorable advice you received from your parents?
 - b. What are some ways to show a parent that you are thankful for their instruction?
4. For each of the following relationships, what are the challenges of staying the course of faithfulness? In which area can this group pray for you?
 - a. Your relationship with your parents: Proverbs 23:22; Colossians 3:20
 - b. With your siblings: Psalm 133:1
 - c. With your spouse: Proverbs 5:18; Ephesians 5:22-28; Colossians 3:18-19
 - d. With your children: Colossians 3:21
 - e. With your church family: Galatians 6:9-10





ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

UNDAUNTED

SCRIPTURE READING

Selected Scriptures

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Everyone experiences hardship this side of heaven. The greatest support we have in tribulation is the presence and example of Jesus, who chose to be the Suffering Servant on our behalf. He provides for us:

- Intimate care.
- Self-awareness through pain.
- The ability to respond.
- Unexpected spiritual blessings.
- Healing by grace.

Wise people:

- Accept the gift of pain.
- Expect persecution.
- Keep doing good as God’s stewards.
- Rejoice through the affliction process.
- Give hurts to the Lord.
- Comfort others.
- Stay the course.

OBJECTIVE

We rejoice in various trials.

WORST AND BEST

“That old, rugged cross so despised by the world. The very worst thing that ever happened in human history turns out to be the very best thing because it saved me. It saves the world.”

—Elizabeth Eliot
Suffering is Never for Nothing

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, especially for responses to the final question.

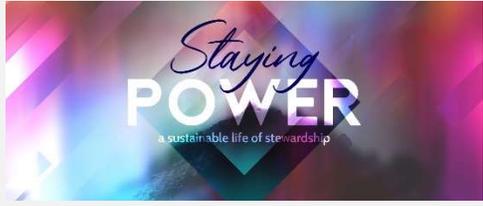
Session 4: Staying Power Through Hardship

1. Describe Jesus. How do you most often think about Him? (For example, as a teacher, or the coming King, etc.)
 - a. Read Isaiah 53:3-6. How often do you think about Jesus as the Suffering Servant?
 - b. Why must we remember His suffering? Read Matthew 10:24-25; Philippians 1:27-29; and 1 Peter 2:20-21.
2. Read Mark 14:32-36. Have you experienced a time when you prayed like this? What happened? What happened for Jesus?
3. Why was Paul able to say that he was content with sufferings? See 2 Corinthians 2:7-10.
4. Read 1 Peter 4:12-14. What had Peter learned in the years since his denial of Jesus on the night before the crucifixion?
5. Discuss these wise responses to times of hardship. Which is the most challenging for you? Why?
 - a. Appreciate the gift of pain: James 1:2-4
 - b. Expect persecution: 1 Peter 4:12-14
 - c. Keep doing good as God’s steward: 1 Peter 4:19
 - d. Rejoice in affliction: Romans 5:1-5
 - e. Give hurts to the Lord: 1 Peter 5:6-7
 - f. Comfort others: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
 - g. Stay the course: Romans 8:16-18
6. How can we be prepared to respond wisely when hardship comes?
7. If you are suffering in some way, how can this group pray for you?



SERIES 5 | SESSION 5

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

UNDAUNTED

SCRIPTURE READING

Selected Scriptures

KEY IDEAS

THEME

No human, however wealthy, strong, intelligent, or talented, no human has staying power for life. Eventually, death comes for every human. However, there is one man who conquered death – Jesus from Nazareth. He proved His divinity in conquering death, and offers eternal life to those who trust in Him.

OBJECTIVE

We never give up.

SEEK HEAVEN

“Two present imperatives identify the Christian’s responsibilities [in Col. 3:1-2]: ‘seek’ (v.1) and ‘set your affection on’ (v.2). Since God raised us with Christ and we are already as good as seated with Him in heaven, we should ‘keep seeking’ heavenly things.”

—Thomas L. Constable
Notes on Colossians, *Bible.org*

“You must not only *seek* heaven; you must also *think* heaven.”

—J.B. Lightfoot
St. Paul’s Epistles to the Colossians and to Philemon

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we live by the power of the Holy Spirit in us.

Session 5: Staying Power for Life

1. Read Colossians 1:18-20. What was God’s plan and purpose for Jesus’ death?
 - a. Is there any part of this plan yet to be completed?
2. Through the work of Christ, God has provided us with life and the capacity to love others well.
 - a. Discuss Colossians 1:13-14. As a believer, where is your spiritual residence? How did you get there?
 - b. Read Colossians 3:23. How often do you have this attitude? Give an example of when it made a difference in your relationship with another person.
3. Discuss the following responses we should have to God’s provision.
 - a. Gratitude: Colossians 2:6-7. How can we show our thanks to God for our salvation?
 - b. Eternal perspective: Colossians 3:1-4. What does life for Christians look like when we focus our thoughts on things above and not on things on the earth?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Discuss the contrast given in each verse.
 - a. What is being contrasted?
 - b. Which is more important for us as Christians? Which is more valued by the world?
 - c. What specifically encourages you in these verses to stay the course and not give up?
5. Review the series premise and objective found on page 1 of this guide. What has stood out the most to you through this Staying Power series?

