

“Self-focused service is concerned with impressive gains. It enjoys serving when the service is titanic or growing in that direction. *Christ-focused* service doesn’t distinguish between small and large. It indiscriminately welcomes all opportunities to serve.

Self-focused service requires external reward, appreciation, and applause. *Christ-focused* service rests content in hiddenness. The divine nod of approval is sufficient.

Self-focused service is highly concerned about results. It becomes disillusioned when results fall below expectations. *Christ-focused* service is free of the need to calculate results; it delights only in service.

Self-focused service is affected by feelings. *Christ-focused* service ministers simply and faithfully because there is a need. The service disciplines the feelings.

Self-focused service insists on meeting the need; it demands the opportunity to help. *Christ-focused* listens with tenderness and patience. It can serve by waiting in silence.”

Richard Foster

“We are to reflect God’s grace to us in the way we treat the marginalized. We are not to prioritize our rich neighbors. Our focus is to be on the poor and needy. Indeed part of our evangelism to the rich is our evangelism to the needy. We subvert their preoccupation with power with power and success as they see us loving the unlovely. We expose their self-righteousness and selfishness as they see us eating with outcasts. They begin to see Jesus living through us.”

Tim Chester and Steve Timmis

“The early church evangelized the Roman Empire and overcame paganism because of the personal witness of individual Christians and because of the corporate witness of the congregations whose inner life and outer actions demonstrated the continuing presence of Jesus Christ in and to the world.”

Robert Weber

Stewards of the Story
Stewards of the Story in our Service
Titus 2:11-14; 3:1-8

Introduction: Stewarding the Story starts in our souls, transforms our hearts in silence and then works out in our service. That is, in doing good deeds that adorn the gospel, making Jesus appear to be a gracious savior.

The grace that appeared in Jesus now “appears” in us. 2:11-14

God’s grace appeared to our souls in Jesus. 2:11

God’s grace appears in our silent transformation. 2:12-14a

God’s grace now appears in our service. 2:14b

The grace that “appears” in us makes Jesus appear as a Savior. 3:1-8

God’s grace in us appears to our neighbors. 3:1-2

God’s grace has transformed our appearance. 3:3-7

Applying these truths to life ...

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Kids Notes

Stewards of the Story in our Service

The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. *To Steward the story in service is to:*

- A. Teach children in Sunday School
- B. Walk in the Relay for Life
- C. Serve food in God's Kitchen
- D. Doing any of these good deeds that adorn the gospel

2. *It's right to serve others because:*

- A. It makes me look good.
- B. They need what I have.
- C. Jesus first served us.
- D. All of the above.

3. *What do others see when we serve them?*

- A. How kind and loving we are.
- B. That somebody cares.
- C. That Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
- D. None of the above.

For Family Discussion: What service can we do together to adorn the Gospel?

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

STEWARDS _____	TOTAL: _____
GOSPEL _____	_____
APPEAR _____	_____
CLOTHES _____	_____
ADORN _____	_____
SERVICE _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

ADORN APPEAR APPEARANCE CLOTHES DEEDS GOOD
GOSPEL JESUS SAVIOR SERVICE STEWARD STORY

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H A Z E P L E Q J Z G D O O Z
E G P S S C X S G M O R I L S
A C C P I H A E B V S A S E K
H I N V E V Q K G P P W R D W
Y N R A I A E C N B E E R S J
V E J O R L R D R Q L T U W O
S O R I Y A Y R O T S S D O K
X C L O T H E S D Z E D B Y H
Y X R V P M H P A J E J E C Z
L M G L P O G S P H L E P E T
V Z J D V X K B C A A K J V D
H G O O D O B K Q I R Z E F R
N E Q I U R O T F R X Z C Q J
Q B B O U R J J R P A I G Q Y
T O E E P N A U W Z E V D Y G

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