



*"Look for this icon throughout the document for further facilitator instruction and guidance."*

## YOURLIFE FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

### Welcome:

We are so thankful that you have chosen to lead Crown's YourLife Teen Stewardship Study. We are excited about your passion to equip the next generation with tools for the future in the areas of Career/Identity, Financial, and Gospel Stewardship. God has used the principles you are about to teach in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who have used Crown's financial studies or career services.

We've found that this study benefits participants most when they do the following:

- 1. Attend the group meeting.** Being at every group meeting to watch the video and be a part of the discussion is beneficial for the participant. The group meetings are designed to introduce the content conversationally so that the students can begin to feel comfortable with certain topics.
- 2. \*Complete the daily lessons.** The daily lessons give the students the opportunity to take a closer look at the content that was introduced during the group meeting. Completing these lessons are important for the students to gain a solid grasp on the content that they are learning.  
\*You may choose to do these as a group together, or perhaps in a small group breakout if you don't think your students will complete homework on their own. That is just fine - the point is that they review the daily lesson material to deepen their understanding.
- 3. Complete the Action Steps.** Each lesson is combined with an action step. When the action steps are completed, the student will be better equipped in that area of stewardship. Many of the action steps are very practical and easy to complete, so be sure to emphasize their importance!

### Purpose:

The purpose of YourLife is to teach teenagers foundational principles of managing their money, career and identity, and following the Gospel plan as God has intended.

### Financial Policy:

- Crown Financial Ministries does not endorse, recommend, or sell any financial investments. No one may use their affiliation with Crown to promote or influence the sale of any financial products or services. Please report any violation of this policy to us at [shop.crown.org/](http://shop.crown.org/) contact.
- Crown's YourLife Study does not give specific investment advice. No one may use his or her affiliation with Crown to give specific investment advice.
- There are several organizations that train financial planners to counsel from a biblical perspective. To learn more about these organizations, please contact Crown's Customer Care team ([customercare@crown.org](mailto:customercare@crown.org) or 800-722-1976).

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- This study is affordably priced because we do not want cost to be an obstacle to people

who desire to participate. If you find the study valuable and want to help make it available to others, visit [www.crown.org](http://www.crown.org) to make a tax-deductible gift to Crown Financial Ministries.

### **Introduction to YourLife:**

YourLife is designed to teach students the main principles of three areas of stewardship: Financial Stewardship, Career and Identity Stewardship, and Gospel Stewardship. This is accomplished through a series of videos and lessons that cover a wide range of topics within the three areas of stewardship.

Each of the three units of stewardship is broken up into five sessions. These five sessions can be done either as a five-week study or as a five-session workshop. There is a slight variation in how the program is done based on whether it is done as a study or as a workshop.

### **Format of the Program – 5-week Study:**

Here is how the program is broken up when it is taught as a multi-week study:

- 1 Group meeting at the beginning of each topic to watch and discuss the material in the video.
- 5 Daily Lessons that reinforce the content that is introduced in the videos.
- 5 Action Steps that correspond with each Daily Lesson.

The video will be viewed whenever the group regularly meets, and the Daily Lessons and Action Steps will be completed throughout the week on the student's own time.

### **Format of the Program – Workshop:**

Here is how the program is broken up when it is given in a workshop setting:

- 5 Video Sessions to be watched during the workshop.
- Essential Action Steps based on the video content for that week.

Because there will not be time to look at each of the Daily Lessons and Action Steps, only essential content and action steps will be included.

### **How to Conduct a Session:**

Regardless of whether you are doing this program as a multi-week Study or a Workshop, the way that you conduct a session is essential to the success of the students.

The videos are broken up into three sections, with each section ending with a question for the group to discuss. When the video arrives at a question, pause it to allow the students some time to answer the questions on their own (preferably in smaller groups of 4-5). After everyone has had a chance to share, watch the next section of the video. Repeat this process until the end of the video.

When the video has concluded, take some time to ask any take some time to ask the students any additional questions to your students. Remember – you are in charge of the conversation,

and you can guide it wherever you think is right for your group.

**To recap, here is a brief order of events during a session:**

1. Pray before the start of the video for the session.
2. Discuss the lessons that they did over the week. Ask them what they learned that stood out to them.
3. If you are doing this program as a multi-week study, confirm that the Action Steps from the prior week have been completed.
4. Watch the video, pausing it when it is necessary.
5. At the conclusion of the video, discuss additional questions with the students.
6. Share any prayer requests.
7. Pray in conclusion.

**Leader Responsibilities:**

1. Unconditionally love and encourage the participants in the group. People are more receptive to spiritual truth when they have been loved. People want to know how much you care before they care how much you know.
2. Hold the participants in the group accountable to:
  - a. Start and finish on time.
  - b. Participate and share experiences.
  - c. Honor one another by being concise.
3. Be a model of faithfulness. Leaders must be faithful to arrive early, pray consistently for the participants, and be prepared in advance.

**Discussion Group Dynamics**

There are two common dangers to avoid with discussion groups. The first is when the leader does all or most of the talking. This sometimes happens when a leader feels it is his or her responsibility to fill “dead air” during a discussion. Do your best to resist this temptation! Group dynamics work much better when all group members are taking part in the discussions. In some cases, it’s not the leader, but a particularly outspoken group member who dominates the conversation. One of the leader’s chief responsibilities is to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to get in on the discussion. For this reason, it may be necessary to steer the conversation in such a way that everyone has a chance to participate by asking questions like, “Has everyone shared their insights for this question?”

The second discussion group danger to avoid is the loss of control. Some groups have such great camaraderie that individual conversations spring up naturally among group members during group discussion time. Or, the group discussion as a whole ends up off-topic and down a rabbit trail, so to speak. As the leader, it’s your responsibility to help the group’s discussion

stay on track. Manage the group politely by saying something like, “We can talk about that after class. Let’s honor everyone’s time by completing this session’s discussion.”

It has been our observation over years of training leaders for discussion groups that the best leaders are those who talk the least, who draw out responses from all participants in the group, and who demonstrate a compassionate commitment to serve the needs of the students.

**Parent Resources:**

For each lesson of the study, we have put together [a set of emails](#) that you may wish to send to parents providing the information covered during that lesson. Also included are conversation-starter suggestions that parents can ask their teenager. We recommend the parent companion guide to this study, Raising GenZ: Stewardship Lessons for Teens. This resource follows along with the weekly lessons in YourLife and gives parents suggested action steps in conversation or guidance with their student.