

Stewardship Blocks*

- ▶ **Main Point:** Teach your kids the importance of being good stewards of their time (Ecclesiastes 3:1 and Matthew 25:14–29).
 - ▶ **Preparation:** You'll need a 2x4 or similar piece of wood, cut to eight to ten blocks of various lengths, but when stacked end-to-end are longer than your coffee or dining room table. On each block, write one of the following words representing the various activities that could fill time in your child's day—doing chores, sleeping, eating, going to school, playing computer games, watching television, reading, bathing, sports, etc. Write the less important items (television, games, etc.) on the shorter blocks, and the essential items (eating, sleeping, school, etc.) on the longer blocks.
 - ▶ **Suggested Age:** Elementary/Pre-teen
 - ▶ **Estimated Time:** 20–30 minutes
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Step One:

Invite your kids to the “24 Hour” table and ask them to place the blocks on the table in order of what they like to do. Your children will quickly discover that there is not enough room on the table for several of the really important blocks. Discuss the items left over, and ask what the impact on life would be if there were not enough time to eat, bathe, go to school, etc.

Step Two:

Ask your kids to place the blocks on the “24 Hour” table in order of importance. They will find that several of the “like to do” blocks will not fit on the table. Share that this is like life. Point out that we have a limited amount of time, and we must carefully select and prioritize how we will spend that time, making certain to do the important things before the fun things. There will be time for all the fun things, but maybe not on every day.

Step Three:

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1 and the parable in Matthew 25:14–29 and discuss ways to implement this principle in your home.

*From Kurt and Olivia Bruner, *The Family Compass*, (Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1999), 177–178.