



## New Chapter

### Introduction

The purpose of this study, the first in the “Where do we grow from here?” series, is to consider the resources and gifts we have together as Christians and as the local church and the responsibilities, opportunities and adventure that follow as a result.

### Opener

“I love it when I am given responsibility.” “Being responsible for something makes me anxious.” Which statement do you relate to most, and why?

*Think about some of the factors that affect how you feel about responsibility – the degree of choice, risks and consequences of ‘failure’, current mental health, personality, support from others. All these can affect how you feel.*

### Bible study

Read Luke 12:35-48.

There are lots of potential distractions from the main theme in this passage, like the second coming and being beaten with blows! Keep the bigger picture in mind as you navigate these verses.

#### Question 1

How does Jesus describe the person who models the attitudes and behaviours he expects from his disciples?

*Look at some of the adjectives, nouns and verbs used in the passage. For example, in the NIV translation we have ready (35, 38, 40), waiting (36), watching (37), faithful and wise (42), manager (42), servant (36, 42-43, 45-47).*

#### Question 2

Although the word isn’t used, this is a passage about responsibility – having a duty of being accountable for something or someone. In what ways does the model servant demonstrate their own understanding of responsibility in this passage?

#### Question 3

Read verses 47-48 again. Who is described as responsible in these verses, and for what are they responsible?

*The responsible person is the servant who knows his master’s will (c.f. Matthew 7:21–23), which is any follower of Jesus. Our responsibilities lie in getting ready, doing what the master wants, and stewarding the master’s resources well.*



## Application

Watch the video for this session. All videos are available from <https://www.baptist.org.uk/wdwgfh>.

### Question 4

The German theologian Helmut Thielicke once said, “The Gospel must be constantly forwarded to a new address because the recipient is repeatedly changing his place of residence.”

What is it about the gospel that never changes? What is it that changes from generation to generation?

*The message stays the same; but how we present it must change as we continually seek to communicate in a culturally relevant way.*

### Question 5

In the video, Ken described what he called the opening paragraph of a new chapter for the church where he serves.

*When you have the message of hope for people – hope for now and forever;  
When you have so much, in terms of people, space, money, values and unity;  
When your main ways are having great effect for some but little effect for many;  
When you don't have to drop all the main ways that have some effect to try new ways;  
When what matters is the original Messenger more than the cherished ways of conveying his message;  
When your aim is to find out what pleases God and go for it wholeheartedly;  
When it's OK to try things and fail sometimes and learn and move on;  
When he promises to come with us in power and guide us by his Spirit;  
When we hit on what it means to try things in his name;  
Then what follows carries with it  
RESPONSIBILITY and OPPORTUNITY and ADVENTURE.*

To what extent does that statement resonate for

- You, personally?
- Your church?

### Question 6

What questions does the statement raise for you? Write down which questions you want to come back to in the rest of this series.

## Taking it forward



“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

How does this verse make you feel? Challenged, afraid, guilty, excited, burdened? Share honestly how you are feeling now and turn your feelings into prayers for each other.