

The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles, Teacher's Guide

Lesson 11: Officers, Leaders, and David's Charge

1 Chronicles 27:1-29:30

Teaching Aim (Teacher Orientation)

Doctrinally, this lesson sets two great truths side by side and shows they belong together. The first is that God is to be served with the whole heart, not merely with outward conformity, because the Lord searches every heart and reads every motive (1 Chronicles 28:9; 1 Samuel 16:7). The second is that God owns everything, so that all our giving is simply returning to Him what was already His (1 Chronicles 29:14; Psalm 24:1). Together these dismantle two errors: the half-hearted religion that goes through the motions, and the proprietary spirit that treats our resources as our own to dispense or withhold. Wholehearted devotion and stewardship are two sides of one surrendered life.

But this lesson aims past the doctrine into the student's daily life. David's charge, be strong and do the work, speaks to every believer tempted to shrink back from a God-given task. His prayer of joyful, willing giving confronts our reluctance with our resources. And his summons to know God with a whole heart presses against the comfortable, divided discipleship so common among us. The aim is that the student leave not only understanding stewardship but practicing it, surrendering time, treasure, talent, and trust to the God who owns it all, and serving Him with courage and joy rather than fear and obligation.

Question 1

Student Question:

What does David mean when he charges Solomon to know the God of his father and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind (1 Chronicles 28:9), and why is wholehearted devotion the heart of true service to God?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

David's charge in 1 Chronicles 28:9 is the spiritual center of these chapters: know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind. The two phrases together describe the totality God desires, the whole heart engaged and the will gladly given.

To know God here is covenantal, relational knowledge, not mere information. It is the knowing of loyalty and love, the lifelong commitment of the whole person. Solomon could recite facts about God; David urges him to know God Himself.

Wholehearted service stands against the divided heart Scripture so often warns about (compare 1 Kings 11, where Solomon's heart was later turned away). The single, undivided heart is the great theme of biblical devotion, echoed by Jesus in the greatest commandment (Mark 12:30).

The 'willing mind' adds that God wants service freely and gladly given, not grudgingly extracted. He is not after reluctant compliance but joyful loyalty.

For the Chronicler's readers, and for us, this is the foundation: everything else in worship and service flows from a heart wholly and willingly given to God.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- God desires whole-hearted, willing service, not divided loyalty.
- To know God is relational and covenantal, not mere information.
- The undivided heart is the great theme of biblical devotion (Mark 12:30).
- God wants gladness, not grudging compliance.

Discussion Prompts

- What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God?
- What does a whole heart and willing mind look like in practice?
- Where is your heart divided?

Question 2

Student Question:

Where in your own walk are you serving God with divided loyalties or a reluctant heart, and what would wholehearted, willing service look like for you this week?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

This question moves David's charge into the student's life. Divided loyalty is subtle. We may serve God on Sunday and self the rest of the week, give Him the surface while reserving the depths, obey when convenient and resist when costly.

Reluctance is the other enemy. We may serve, but grudgingly, watching the clock, resenting the cost, doing the minimum. God's call is to willing, glad service.

Invite honest naming. Where specifically is loyalty divided, money, time, a relationship, an ambition that competes with God? Where is service rendered with a dragging heart?

Encourage a concrete step toward wholeheartedness this week, one area surrendered more fully and served more gladly.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- Divided loyalty is subtle and common.
- Reluctant service falls short of God's call.
- Wholeheartedness must be specific to be real.
- Glad service flows from a surrendered heart.

Discussion Prompts

- Where is your loyalty to God divided?
- Do you serve God gladly or grudgingly?
- What is one area to surrender more fully this week?

Question 3

Student Question:

David tells Solomon that the Lord searches all hearts and understands every intent of the thoughts (1 Chronicles 28:9). What does this teach about God's knowledge of us, and what comfort and warning does it carry?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

1 Chronicles 28:9 declares that the Lord searches all hearts and understands every intent of the thoughts. God's knowledge penetrates beyond actions to motives, beyond words to the secret intentions behind them. Nothing is hidden from Him.

This truth carries both comfort and warning. The warning: hypocrisy is impossible before God; He is not impressed by outward religion that masks an unsundered heart (compare 1 Samuel 16:7). The comfort: God sees the faithful heart even when others misjudge us, and He understands us fully and still calls us His own.

David grounds his charge in this truth as motivation. Precisely because God reads the heart, half-hearted service is futile and wholehearted service is the only fitting response. We cannot fool the One who searches us.

For the believer, this should produce a healthy transparency before God, an end to pretending, and a desire for inner integrity that matches our outward profession (Psalm 139:1-4, 23-24).

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- God's knowledge reaches to every motive and intention.
- Hypocrisy is impossible before the God who searches hearts.
- This truth carries both warning and deep comfort.
- It calls us to inner integrity, not mere outward conformity.

Discussion Prompts

- How does it change your worship to know God reads your motives?
- Where is the comfort in being fully known by God?
- Where is the warning?

Question 4

Student Question:

Knowing that God sees every motive behind your actions, what hidden attitude or intention do you need to bring honestly before Him?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

If God sees every motive, then honesty before Him is the only sane response. This question invites students to bring a hidden attitude into the light, resentment, pride, a secret ambition, a grudging spirit, an impure motive behind a good deed.

We often hide such things even from ourselves. The discipline of honest prayer, asking God to search us (Psalm 139:23–24), exposes what we would rather not see and opens the door to cleansing.

Reassure students that God's searching is not the cold scrutiny of a prosecutor but the loving examination of a Father who knows us fully and still receives us. Transparency leads to healing, not condemnation.

Encourage one specific act of confession this week, naming before God a hidden attitude and asking Him to transform it.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- Honesty before God is the only fitting response to being fully known.
- Hidden attitudes need exposure to be healed.
- God's searching is the loving examination of a Father.
- Transparency leads to cleansing, not condemnation.

Discussion Prompts

- What hidden attitude do you need to bring before God?
- Why do we hide things even from ourselves?
- How does honest prayer open the way to change?

Question 5

Student Question:

Why does David repeatedly urge Solomon to be strong and do the work, promising that God will be with him and will not fail him until the work is finished (1 Chronicles 28:20)? What does this reveal about how God's people are to face daunting tasks?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

Three times in this section David urges courage and action: be strong and do the work (1 Chronicles 28:10, 20). The repeated commission echoes God's words to Joshua (Joshua 1:6–9), the language of a leader sending a successor into a daunting task.

The ground of the courage is not Solomon's ability but God's presence: the Lord God, even my God, is with you; He will not fail you nor forsake you, until all the work is finished (28:20). Courage flows from the promise of God's faithful presence, not from self-confidence.

Note the scope of the promise: until all the work is finished. God does not call and then abandon; He sees His people through to completion. This is the assurance every overwhelmed servant needs.

This is how God's people face daunting tasks: not by minimizing the challenge or trusting their own strength, but by leaning on the God who goes with them and finishes what He starts (Philippians 1:6 carries the same assurance into the New Testament).

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- God calls His people to courageous action, not paralysis.
- Courage rests on God's presence, not human ability.
- God sees His work through to completion (28:20).
- The promise echoes Joshua and anticipates Philippians 1:6.

Discussion Prompts

- Why does David ground courage in God's presence rather than Solomon's skill?
- What does 'be strong and do the work' say to an overwhelmed believer?
- How does God's faithfulness to finish encourage you?

Question 6

Student Question:

What God-given work have you shrunk back from out of fear or feeling inadequate, and how does the promise of God's presence change the way you face it?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

This question presses the be-strong-and-do-the-work charge into the student's reality. Many of us have a God-given task we have avoided, a ministry we feel inadequate for, a hard conversation, a step of obedience, a service we are sure we would fail.

Fear and feelings of inadequacy are precisely what David's charge addresses. The answer is not greater self-confidence but greater confidence in God's presence and faithfulness.

Invite students to name the specific task they have shrunk from. Naming it begins to break its power, and pairing it with God's promise of presence reframes it from impossible to possible-with-God.

Encourage one courageous step this week into a task they have been avoiding, leaning on the promise that God will be with them and will not forsake them.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- Fear and inadequacy cause us to shrink from God's call.
- The remedy is confidence in God, not in ourselves.
- Naming an avoided task begins to break its grip.
- God's promised presence reframes the impossible.

Discussion Prompts

- What God-given task have you been avoiding out of fear?
- How does God's presence change the way you face it?
- What courageous step will you take this week?

Question 7

Student Question:

What moves the leaders and the people to give so willingly and joyfully for the house of God (1 Chronicles 29:6–9), and what does their joy reveal about the heart of true generosity?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

1 Chronicles 29:6–9 records an outpouring of giving: the leaders gave willingly, and the people rejoiced because they had offered freely and with a whole heart to the Lord. The emphasis falls repeatedly on willingness and joy.

What drives such generosity? David's own example led the way (29:3–5); he gave lavishly from his personal treasure before asking anything of others. Leadership in giving is modeled, not merely commanded.

Deeper still, the giving flowed from a right view of God and possessions, which David articulates in his prayer. When people grasp that everything already belongs to God, giving becomes joyful return rather than painful loss.

The text says the people rejoiced and David the king rejoiced greatly. Genuine generosity produces joy; it is one of the surest signs of a heart freed from the grip of possessions (compare 2 Corinthians 9:7, God loves a cheerful giver).

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- Generosity here is marked by willingness and joy.
- David's leadership in giving set the pattern.
- A right view of God and possessions fuels open-handed giving.
- True generosity produces joy (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Discussion Prompts

- What made the people's giving joyful rather than burdensome?
- How does leadership shape a congregation's generosity?
- Why is joy a sign of a heart freed from possessions?

Question 8

Student Question:

Is your giving to God marked by joy and willingness or by reluctance and obligation? What in your heart needs to change for giving to become a delight?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

This question turns the spotlight on the student's own giving. Scripture knows two kinds of givers: the cheerful and the reluctant. Paul says God loves the cheerful one and warns against giving grudgingly or under compulsion (2 Corinthians 9:6–8).

Reluctance in giving usually signals a heart still gripped by ownership and fear, the worry that we will not have enough, the sense that what we give is loss. Joy in giving signals a heart that trusts God and holds possessions loosely.

Encourage honest self-assessment. When the offering comes, when a need arises, when generosity is costly, what is the state of the heart, delight or dread?

The path to joyful giving runs through the truth David is about to pray: it is all God's anyway. Help students see that changing the heart, not just the habit, is the goal.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- Scripture distinguishes cheerful from reluctant giving.

- Reluctance signals a heart gripped by ownership and fear.
- Joyful giving flows from trust and loose-handed holding.
- The heart, not just the habit, must change.

Discussion Prompts

- Is your giving marked by joy or reluctance?
- What does your attitude toward giving reveal about your heart?
- What would it take for giving to become a delight?

Question 9

Student Question:

Bring together the great themes of David's charge and prayer: how does serving God with a whole heart relate to the truth that God owns everything and we are merely stewards, so that 'all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You' (1 Chronicles 29:14), and how should this wholehearted, stewardship-shaped devotion mark every part of a Christian's life today?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

Here is the doctrinal summit of the lesson, and the two great themes converge. David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 29:10–19 anchors all generous, wholehearted service in a single confession: all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You (29:14). We are not owners making donations; we are stewards returning gifts.

This stewardship truth is rooted in who God is. David proclaims, Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory; all that is in heaven and earth is Yours (29:11). Psalm 24:1 says it plainly: the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. God owns everything by right of creation. We possess nothing that He did not first give.

Connect this to the whole-heart theme. Wholehearted devotion (28:9) and stewardship (29:14) are not separate ideas; they are one surrendered life seen from two angles. A heart wholly God's recognizes that its time, treasure, talents, and very breath are God's. Stewardship is what wholehearted devotion looks like with our hands open.

This dismantles two errors at once. It dismantles half-hearted religion, because the God who owns all and searches all hearts will not be served with leftovers. And it dismantles the proprietary spirit, because nothing we have is truly ours to clutch. David adds a humbling note: our days on earth are as a shadow (29:15), so we are stewards passing through, not permanent owners.

For the Christian today this shapes everything. Money becomes something we manage for God, not hoarded for ourselves (Matthew 6:19–24). Time becomes a trust to spend on what matters to

Him. Abilities become gifts to deploy for His glory and the good of His church. Even our lives are not our own, for we were bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). David's prayer is the charter of the Christian steward: from God, through God, back to God, joyfully and with a whole heart.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- All we have already belongs to God; we are stewards, not owners (1 Chronicles 29:14; Psalm 24:1).
- Stewardship is grounded in God's nature as Creator and owner of all.
- Wholehearted devotion and stewardship are one surrendered life.
- This truth dismantles both half-hearted religion and the proprietary spirit.
- Our days are a passing shadow; we are stewards, not permanent owners (29:15).
- Stewardship governs money, time, talent, and life itself (Matthew 6:19–24; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

Discussion Prompts

- How does 'of Your own have we given You' change the way you give?
- Why do wholehearted devotion and stewardship belong together?
- In what areas are you still living as an owner rather than a steward?

Question 10

Student Question:

Looking back across David's charge and prayer, name one specific area, time, treasure, talent, or trust, in which Jesus is calling you to surrender more fully as a wholehearted, willing steward of what is already His.

Commentary and Teaching Notes

The capstone calls for a specific surrender. David's charge and prayer have set before us a wholehearted, stewardship-shaped life: serving God with a whole heart, facing tasks with courage, giving with joy because it is all His anyway.

Invite students to name one concrete area, time, treasure, talent, or trust, where Jesus is calling them to surrender more fully as His steward. Specificity turns conviction into obedience.

Keep the focus on Christ. The God who owned everything in David's day gave His own Son for us; our surrender is the glad response of those who have received the greatest gift (2 Corinthians 8:9 carries this grace-driven generosity into the gospel age).

Close with the joy of David's prayer. Stewardship is not loss but freedom, the relief of laying down the impossible burden of ownership and living as a glad, willing steward of the God who owns it all.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- Surrender must be specific to be real.
- Christian stewardship is the response to grace received.
- Surrender is freedom and joy, not loss.
- Christ is the center and motive of wholehearted devotion.

Discussion Prompts

- What one area is Jesus calling you to surrender more fully?
- How does grace received fuel willing stewardship?
- Why is stewardship freedom rather than loss?