re-think

verb

gerund or present participle: rethinking
rēˈTHiNGk/
think again about (something such as a policy or course of action), especially in order to make changes to it. "the government was forced to rethink its plans"
“maybe its not our stewardship practices but our thinking around stewardship which has to be reimagined”
Today I want to explore ... why I think stewardship needs to be embedded in ministry with children, youth, and young adults.
a story
“maybe its not our stewardship practices but our thinking around stewardship which has to be reimagined”
Point #1: Our primary perspective on stewardship is shaped in our childhood.
**Question #1:** What does it mean for congregations if our primary perspective of stewardship comes in *childhood*?
When I speak about stewardship

WHAT DO I MEAN?
the abundant life

“I came that they might have life and life abundant.”
—Jesus, John 10:10

God’s Story
The Beatitudes

• “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
• Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
• Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
• Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
• Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
• Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
• Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
• Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
• Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5:3-12
“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

Matthew 7:24-25
Point #2: Stewardship is a perspective on our way of living.
Question #2: When you speak of stewardship, what do you mean?
“maybe its not our stewardship practices but our thinking around stewardship which has to be reimagined”
IF the primary view of stewardship is shaped in our early years and IF stewardship impacts our way of seeing life … THEN WHAT?
cultural story
We have a different story to tell!
Are we telling it?
Is stewardship about...

...being God’s hands in the world.
It is an issue of identity.

Our identity and the identity of our children.
Stewardship
...is a response to God’s love and mercy.
...is a call to live into the identity Christ gives to us – not because of anything we have done, but because we are God’s creation.
...is a whole life endeavor.
...is a vision of abundant living.
And the focus is not on us, it is on our neighbor and the world God loves.
Stewardship as a lens for seeing our living in the world
Point #3: The challenge is great. But our view of stewardship might be too small – too passive, too instrumental, too narrow.
“maybe it's not our stewardship practices but our thinking around stewardship which has to be reimagined”
Question #3: Is your vision of stewardship big enough to create the urgency needed for rethinking it?
Practices to foster stewardship as a way of life in congregations.

“Motivation gets you started. HABIT keeps you going.”

-Jim Rohn

Practices produce habits
Habits produce perspective

CREATE MEANING

People shape meaning

Nurture Environments
a story
“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

Matthew 6:24-25
a blessing

May our children know who and whose they are, and live abundant lives loving and caring for the world in which we live and God loves.