



*More Than*  
**STONE SOUP**

***A Stewardship and Giving Emphasis Program for Congregations***

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**WEEK #6 – SERMON NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS**

Timing: Sunday of Week #6

Sermon Title: Celebrating God's Love

Preaching Text: Matthew 6:19-21, or 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, or both

Sermon Suggestions: These points are to be covered and provide a sermon outline:

1. This sermon is a recap and reflection of the past five weeks of the campaign.
2. This sermon should be shorter than usual to allow for the distribution, marking and collection of the Estimate of Giving Cards.
3. Today we consummate our giving emphasis campaign with the completion of the Estimate of giving Cards.
4. We have explored our relationship with God and his abundant blessings.
5. We have come to recognize our total dependence on God to provide for our daily needs.
6. We have learned that attitude toward our possessions has a significant impact on our relationship with God. God loves a cheerful giver.
7. The tithing of our assets, time and intellectual abilities supports the work of the Church.
8. We give not from a perceived scarcity of resources, but from the abundance given us in God's wonderful Creation.
9. In all of this, faithfulness in our giving is the living out of our Baptism as we respond to God's love for us and his generosity.

10. As always, God's grace alone makes possible this and all we do in his name. We live within the framework of God's love. Our generous giving comes from within that framework as well.
11. For most of us the decisions concerning our giving plans have been made and our minds have been set. Little can be said this morning that would change our decisions for giving.
12. What remains for us today, is the deliberate act of transferring the estimate for our giving in the coming year from our hearts to a piece of paper – an Estimate of Giving Card. This action on our part symbolizes and confirms our commitment to God and the work of his church.
13. Once we have documented our intentions concerning our giving to God, today becomes a day for celebration. We celebrate God's generosity and love for us, and we celebrate our commitment to God.
14. The feast we will soon enjoy is testimony of God's generosity. We have not been dealt mere stones for sustaining life, but an abundance we can celebrate with vigor and grateful enthusiasm.
15. May we continue to carry our stones with us in the weeks and months ahead, and may the little stones serve as constant reminders of God's graciousness.
16. So, let the celebration begin, and let it begin with the completion of our Estimate of giving Cards. What better way is there to begin a celebration than by celebrating our commitments as we complete our cards.
17. May we always carry in our hearts a gratefulness for God's generosity.