



More Than
STONE SOUP

A Stewardship and Giving Emphasis Program for Congregations

WEEK #1 – SERMON NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS

Timing: Sunday of Week #1

Sermon Title: Why a Giving Emphasis Program?

Preaching Text: 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Background Material: More Than Stone Soup – Stewardship: The Basics

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

1. Begin the sermon by questioning the validity of completing a pledge card or an estimate of giving card. Why should anyone do it?
2. A specific requirement for completing a stewardship Pledge Card is not to be found in Scripture.
3. Old Testament Law demanded the Tithe as a required and proper sacrifice to God, so formally declaring our giving was unnecessary.
4. Our New Testament understanding of stewardship comes from Paul's first letter to Corinth. Paul establishes the deliberate planning of our giving as an appropriate approach to stewardship. 1 Cor. 16:1-2
5. Our giving is to be pragmatic, consistent and regular: "On the first day of each week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money..."
6. Our giving is to be proportionate: "...set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income..."
7. Our giving is to be planned: "...saving it up, so that when I come no collection will have to be made."
8. This concept of planning should be our norm for giving today.

9. An annual review of our blessings, resulting in a formal declaration of an ongoing commitment, is an effective method for planning regular giving, and is in keeping with Paul's teachings.
10. Those who formally estimate and document an intentional plan for giving are more faithful and committed to stewardship as Paul defined it, than are those who do not.
11. Our current campaign, More Than Stone Soup, affords us the opportunity for deliberate planning of our giving over the coming months.
12. In our giving we celebrate God's love and generosity toward us.
13. Generous giving on our part strengthens our faith, because when we stretch our giving to above and beyond our comfort zone—we are required to trust God for daily necessities.
14. We can be generous givers because God has been generous with us.
15. The Cross and empty Tomb proves we cannot out give God.