Making a Response

An invitation is often accomplished through a “response method.” The invitation is preceded by education and conversations about sharing from God’s blessings and giving to God’s work. In MAKE IT SIMPLE, a response method is a simple way to invite the people of God to express:

- gratitude for God’s actions in their lives,
- purposeful living according to God’s invitation and
- energized eagerness to do God’s will for the world.

Three different response methods are offered:

- Commitment Sunday
- Congregational Meal
- Small Group Gatherings

For each method this resource provides an overview, introduction to leadership roles, a calendar, sample materials, and helps for determining which video clips to use.

How to Use MAKE IT SIMPLE

You can access the electronic version of this resource by visiting www.elca.org/makeitsimple. Click “How To Use” on the opening screen to start exploring the resource.

To purchase the DVD set from Augsburg Fortress, visit www.augsburgfortress.org or call 1-800-328-4648. Order number: ITEM000666

For more information about MAKE IT SIMPLE, simply call 1-800-638-3522 Ext. 2555

God is able
to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8
Growing Stewards

Are you a pastor or lay leader looking to grow good stewards in your setting? A healthy understanding of being God’s steward involves some basic elements:

- **Thankfulness**—time for prayer, reflection, conversation, worship, and the celebration of all God’s blessings.
- **Education**—learn basic stewardship principles and practices that shape personal lifestyle and culture in the congregation.
- **Invitation**—time to consider how to share one’s time, talents, and resources.
- **Generosity**—time to give freely from our blessings and abundance for God’s work with and through others.

This resource helps develop our identity as God’s stewards in homes, small groups, and in congregational settings.

The MAKE IT SIMPLE resource helps congregations and families grow stewards with a focus on simplicity, generous living, and the faithful use of God’s abundant blessings. Four themes help bring this focus together:

- **Following Jesus** Matthew 6:25–33
  We are pieces of God’s abundant creation, adorning God’s world and cherishing God’s abundant blessings.

- **Facing the Truth** Mark 4:37–41
  The parades of our lives are often disrupted as we face the truth that faithfulness, simplicity, and generosity are not always easy to live out.

- **Acting Together** John 13:34–35
  Looking beyond ourselves, we see clearly that we are not alone in living out God’s will for the world. We are disciples in the body of Christ.

- **Sharing Enough** Philippians 4:11b–13
  Our lives are blessed with the gift of God’s “enough,” and so we can be satisfied with what we have.

Resources for Growing Stewards

MAKE IT SIMPLE includes a collection of nine compelling video segments that reveal the personal witness of faithful Christians trying to live simply, be generous, and serve God:

- More Than Enough
- Simply Being Alive
- What’s Enough?

- **A Way of Life**
- **Step Out in Faith**
- **Farm Life is (Not) Simple**
- **Involuntary Simplicity**
- **The Ten Percent Thing**
- **Daddy, Will You Catch Me?**

MAKE IT SIMPLE offers a variety of activities to engage all age groups:

- Bible Conversations
- Bible Studies
- Children’s Sermons
- Learning Events
- Youth Activities
- Children’s Activities