



# Make It Simple

*A Resource for Stewardship Education and Annual Response*

## Sharing Enough

Use this Bible study outline to take participants deep into the scriptural basis for the theme “Sharing Enough,” from Philippians 4:11b-13. Choose from among the discussion questions—and possible activities—to form a plan of guided sharing that will help participants see God’s word as valuable for their daily living, and invite them into both simplicity and generosity.

### Opening Prayer

God of all blessings, we give you thanks for your abundant grace. Guide us to see that all that we are, all that we have begins and ends in you. Grant us the wisdom and grace to be good stewards of all that you have blessed us with. Give us thankful hearts that are open to share generously all that we have received. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen!

Read Philippians 4:11b-13.

### Discussion Questions and Activities

1. The Apostle Paul, writing to the church at Philippi, speaks about abundance and scarcity and his experience with both. And through all circumstances he recognizes that what is essential for his life is his relationship with Jesus. What has been your experience of “having little and having plenty”? When have you experienced the “contentment” that Paul describes here?
2. You receive 5000 messages a day that tell you that you do not have enough, that what you have is fragile and can be gone at any moment, and that you have to go get more. How do you react to these messages? How much is enough for you? And what will “more” give you that you do not have now?
3. As you have wrestled with the question of living more simply, what are the areas in your life that are the most resistant to change? What things are you planning on doing more simply in the next four weeks, the next few months, over the next year? What support from others will be helpful to you in making those changes?

4. As a follower of Jesus, your stewardship of your blessings is a vital mark of your discipleship. It is about recognizing the blessings God has poured out upon you and generously sharing them with the community around you. It is about giving of your time, your talents, and your money. As you reflect upon the blessings you have received, what will you do to be more generous in the use of those blessings?
5. Paul proclaims to the Philippians in the last sentence of our lesson, “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” How have you experienced Jesus’ presence over the past few weeks in this small group? How have you been strengthened? How have you grown in faith through these studies?
6. Watch the MAKE IT SIMPLE video segment, “More Than Enough.” Talk about these matters:
  - What do you think is the source of Kari’s sense of contentment? Where is the focus on abundant blessing in her life?
  - Take a mental inventory of all your stuff. What possessions do you have that “possess” you? What possessions do you have that you generously share with others?
  - Why does Kari name the loss of her legs as a blessing?

## **Closing Prayers**

Give thanks to God for the abundant blessings that have been poured out upon you. Offer thanksgivings for the blessings experienced in this small group. Pray for the needs of the group, the congregation, your community and the world. End with the Lord’s Prayer.