

More or less
Devotions for a stewardship team

Synopsis

This 10-minute devotional time helps participants think how their desires for either “more” or “less can affect this congregation’s purpose.

Bible reflection

1 Timothy 6:6

At its deeper levels, the life of faith offers believers the joy of contentment, escape from the additions of materialism, and the safety of sufficiency. In writing to this first century pastor, Paul might have been reminding him that the church helps its members to be satisfied with their lives. Perhaps Christian congregations today might provide the same benefit as the ancient church.

Sharing activity

1. Participants are each given a single index card. On one side is lettered the word MORE; on the other side LESS.
1. As you show participants typical stewardship-related words or concepts from the list below, ask them to indicate their hopes for the congregation by holding up either the MORE or LESS side of the card. Use any of the following words or concepts:

Money for this congregation
People attending worship
Fame in community
Visits in homes
Forgiveness
Social ministry in community
Overseas mission work

Willing volunteers
Members under 25 years old
Worship opportunities
Grace
Problems
Staff members
Contributions to denomination

2. Ask participants to reflect on what they’ve noticed about their reactions. If anyone has offered a third choice—contentment characterized by “enough”—talk about the

reasons for that choice as well. Ask how “more” and “less” match some of the purposes of the congregation, or the work of this stewardship team.

3. Read, summarize or adapt the Bible reflection above, adding your own comments as time allows.

Prayer

Lord of all the Earth, give to us your Spirit’s gifts, so that in all our doings we serve your will for the world. With gratitude for your abundance in our lives, we commit our energies and actions to your care. In Christ’s name. Amen