

# parish

## *Grow as Stewards through Faith, Love and Hope!*

*A Three-week Stewardship Program*



*“We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by **faith**, your labor prompted by **love**, and your endurance inspired by **hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

1 Thessalonians 1:3

### *Program Instructions*

# Program Description

*Grow as Stewards through Faith, Love and Hope!* is a 3-week stewardship program designed to be an integral part of your stewardship plan. It will create a positive atmosphere in which to focus on the commitment of your members. We recommend that it be accompanied by monthly communication and inspiration about stewardship throughout the year, such as a bulletin or newsletter insert. This will provide a consistent, meaningful backdrop to conveying the stewardship theme.

## Program Material Files

The program material files contain the core materials required to undertake a successful program: newsletter articles, bulletin messages and inserts, email messages, lay reader presentations, sermons, children's messages, letters from the pastor, giving charts and a commitment form. These materials are available at the *Parish Resource Center* (<http://www.parishpublishing.org/resourcecenter>), placed in separate files making them easy to find and use. Simply download the material to your computer and you can edit or change any material, if desired.

**Keep your log on information handy:** Username \_\_\_\_\_ Password \_\_\_\_\_

### **All materials are downloadable and included:**

*Materials for preparation and kick-off of the program:*

- † Program Instructions
- † Background photo
- † Newsletter or Email article
- † Bulletin messages
- † Program brochure (In both tri-fold and letter formats.)
- † Letter from pastor to accompany Commitment Form
- † Letter from pastor to those not returning a Commitment Form
- † Letter from pastor to thank members who turned in a Commitment Form
- † 28-page Devotional booklet (In both booklet and full-size formats.)
- † Giving Chart
- † Commitment Form

*Materials for each week of the program:*

- † Bulletin insert
- † Children's message
- † Lay reader message
- † Worship suggestions
- † Bible study (Including Bible study answer guide.)
- † Sermon

# Devotional Meditations Booklet

Separated into three sections: Faith, Love and Hope, these eighteen carefully written devotions illustrate and fortify the fundamental foundations of stewardship. Each of the *Grow as a Steward through Faith, Love and Hope!* devotions includes a thematic scriptural reference and a closing prayer. During the program, they will provide encouragement and motivation for God's people to grow in their faith, love and hope and therefore their natural commitment as a steward.

## Program Brochure

The program brochure is integral to kicking off the program. It is included in two formats: tri-fold and letter. It should be sent to each family, placed in the bulletins or handed out. The program brochure provides a meaningful message, while remaining brief enough to be read quickly by busy people.

## Bible Studies

In order to grow as a steward, it is essential to be in God's Word. There are three downloadable Bible studies included for each week of this program. The Bible studies are filled with many excellent discussion questions and will deepen the spiritual basis for giving. Simply print them out or email them to the participants.

## Provide Year-round Inspiration

It is important to maintain a consistent communication and inspiration about stewardship throughout the year. We recommend using a monthly bulletin insert on stewardship, available separately from Parish Publishing.

### Program Suggestions

- ✠ The devotional booklet and program brochure are important elements of the program. Prepare to print or email them in plenty of time for the program launch.
- ✠ To help launch the program, send a program brochure along with the pastor's letter and the commitment form. Either include the devotional booklet, or hand the program brochure out separately as the program begins.
- ✠ Use the program background photo when publishing bulletin or newsletter messages, either behind the text or as cover art.
- ✠ We encourage you to ask some people to share their personal testimonies regarding their lives as stewards to augment or replace the included lay reader presentations. If there are no volunteers, use the lay reader presentations that are available for each Sunday.
- ✠ Emphasize the importance of attending the Bible studies. In order for people to grow and excel in the grace of giving, they need to be reading and studying God's Word.
- ✠ This program can be offered any time during the year.
- ✠ Make Commitment Sunday a special day. Offer refreshments. Have balloons. Make it a day of celebration as people offer their commitments to the Lord. Make it an exciting and memorable day.

## *Program Time Line*

### **Preceding the three stewardship Sundays**

<b>Bible studies</b>	Schedule Bible study groups, or church-wide sessions. Email the Bible studies to those people attending.
<b>Lay reader presentation</b>	Identify and schedule lay readers.
<b>Newsletter article:</b>	Publish one month preceding the program.
<b>Schedule Bible study meetings.</b>	
<b>Mailing to launch program:</b> Letter from the Pastor Program Brochure Commitment Form	Mail to households so they are received just before the beginning of the program.
<b>Devotional Meditations Booklet</b>	Either included in launch mailing or handed/emailed out.
<b>Bulletin Messages</b>	Publish one message in the bulletin prior to the three Sunday program. Then, one for each Sunday.
<b>Email Message</b>	Send newsletter article in email preceding program.

### **During the three stewardship Sundays**

<b>First Sunday</b>	Publish bulletin insert. Lay reader presentation: “Motivated by Faith“ Teach children’s message: “The Prize” Use worship suggestions. Preach sermon: “Consistently Running the Race of Faith” Host Bible study session during week.
<b>Second Sunday</b>	Publish bulletin insert. Lay reader presentation: “Love Compels Us to Give” <i>Distribute “Giving Chart” (optional).</i> Teach children’s message: “Loving Others” Use worship suggestions. Preach sermon: “Love Prompts Action” Host Bible study session during week.
<b>Third Sunday</b>	Publish bulletin insert. Lay reader presentation: “Where Is Your Hope?” Teach children’s message: “Our Sure Hope” Use worship suggestions. Preach sermon: “Inspired by Hope”

Host Bible study session during week.

Invite your members to place their commitment forms on the altar. Have extra forms available.

### **After the three stewardship Sundays**

Letter to those

not returning a commitment form:

Send reminder letters to those who failed to return their commitment form.

Letter to those

who turned in a commitment form:

Send thank-you letters to those who turned in commitment forms.

Email message and bulletin message:

Thank-you to people for their generosity.

We recommend providing monthly stewardship bulletin or newsletter inserts after the program in order to maintain consistent inspiration and communication throughout the entire year. This will help reinforce the concept of stewardship and prepare your members for next year's program!

#### ***Helpful Hints for Printing***

1. *Please edit and copy/paste any resources to fit your stationary, bulletin or newsletter, as desired. Suggested or required changes are [In Red].*
2. *Devotionals booklet printing:*
  - a. In the Adobe Acrobat Print Dialogue box (not your printer's settings), "Page Scaling" must be set to "Booklet Printing."
  - b. If you have a two sided "duplex" printer, in the printer properties, make sure that "Booklet Subset" is set to "Both Sides."
3. *Commitment Card printing: We suggest using card stock instead of normal printer paper.*
4. *Tri-fold brochures: If you have a two sided "duplex" printer, in the printer properties, make sure that "duplex" is selected.*

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