

**January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Sermon Discussion Guide**  
**Pastor Steve DeNeff**  
**“The Power of One: The 5 Practices of a Steward”**

**Gathering**

“Lord, may this scripture guide our discussion as well as our lives. Give us the grace to be stewards of everything you have given us.”

**Genesis 1:1-2; John 1:1-5**

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.”*

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.<sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

**Prayer**

- For those around the world who searching for refuge, hope, and peace. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For unity in our country and peace for those reeling from tragedy, *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For College Wesleyan church to pursue biblical stewardship and through that pursuit, you would use us to impact Grant county, *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For the needs that we have shared together on a personal level,... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Summary of the Sermon**

- As a group, recall the key points of Pastor Steve’s sermon.
- How did God stir you during the service? How were you challenged or changed?

**Scripture**

*Take the time to read aloud the scripture that was preached. **John 6:1-15***

*Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), <sup>2</sup>and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. <sup>3</sup>Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>The Jewish Passover Festival was near.*

*<sup>5</sup>When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” <sup>6</sup>He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.*

*<sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”*

*<sup>8</sup>Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up,<sup>9</sup> “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”*

*<sup>10</sup>Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there).<sup>11</sup>Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.*

*<sup>12</sup>When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.*

*<sup>14</sup>After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” <sup>15</sup>Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.*

## Major Sermon Discussion Points

- We talk about SoulShifts as changes in our lives initiated by God deep in our souls.
- 1 Peter 4:10 makes a few assumptions that Pastor Steve mentioned. “<sup>10</sup>Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”
  - Everybody has something.
  - We take what we have and use it to serve others.
    - Stewardship = using what God has give us to get between God and the people he is trying to serve
    - Consumer = keeping for ourselves what was intended to share with others.
- What are your reactions to Pastor Steve’s statement, “Stewardship may be an individual act but it has public and social implications.” What does this mean?
- Stewardship is not innate, it is a disposition that is learned through our culture. What is the values in the culture around you toward stewardship versus consumerism?
- Which of the major actions found in John 6 challenged you the most?
  - Take (Ownership)
  - Bless (Humility)
  - Break/Multiply (Discipline)
  - Give (Generosity)
  - Leave (Empowerment)

## Next Steps/Moving Forward

- As you take inventory of your life, what has God given you that you need to own and steward well?

## **Closing Prayer**

Pray as you feel led as a group following your discussion or confess the following prayer individually or together:

*Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in endless praise.*

*Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.*

*Take my voice and let me sing,  
Always, only for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee.*

*Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use  
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.*

*Take my will and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.*

*Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.*

**Amen.**