



TODAY'S TOPIC:

**Stone Soup**

You are welcome to use this lesson to inspire spiritual conversation in your family or youth classroom. It is written for elementary age but could be adjusted as needed.

**THINKING JOB:** Ask a "thinking job question" to get everyone thinking about something pertinent to the lesson. This could be asked moments or hours before your conversation.

***When did I share something with someone else?***

**Lesson**

Materials	Things to Prepare	Today's Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rock</li> <li>• Pot</li> <li>• Spoon or ladle</li> <li>• Soup ingredients</li> <li>• Copy of the story</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prep soup ingredients as needed to have enough for every child.</li> </ul>	<p>We all get something better when we all share what we have.</p>

**SHOW:** I have this cool rock. Are rocks food? Would you like to eat some of this rock? Of course not, it's a rock! But I do know a story where a delicious soup was made from a rock, or stone, just like this one.

**STORY:** How many of you have heard the story of **Stone Soup**? Explain that you need help telling the story.

- Who: Teacher is a traveler, and the kids are the people who live in the town.
- Props: Hand out the ingredient food items to each of the kids. Explain they will need to keep it hidden.
- Play their part: At first do not share, later add their ingredients to the pot.

**TELL THE STORY**

**ASK:** What does it mean to share? (Giving freely because you want to and not because you have to or to get something in return.)

**ASK:** What kinds of things can you share? (time, food, toys, clothes, etc.)

**ASK:** Why would you want to share? (show love, to show others how to do it, because sharing is a God quality, people feel good when you notice they need help and then do something about it). In the story, none of the people could have had a meal as delicious as the one they had together, and that we have more fun when we share and play together as well .

**SAY:** This story has been told in many ways and in many different cultures. Why do you think it would be told all over the world? Because of the universal message of the story and people all over the world believe in the importance of sharing to all people.

**AFFIRMATION** –I share what I can with others. repeat 4X

Note: Printable affirmations and coloring sheets for this lesson are available at <https://www.milehichurch.org/youth-family/> .

## STONE SOUP!

*Embellish the story however you wish, but here is a basic way to tell it:*

*Hand out some of the ingredients to kids in your class that you might use in soup. Explain what each ingredient is as you hand it out. Remind the children again that the villagers did not want to share, so they should hide their food behind their backs, and not share when you first ask. But later, when you start making stone soup, they can add their ingredient to the pot.*

**In this story there is a traveler. And the traveler comes to a town where the people are not very good at sharing. The people in this town had food, but they didn't want to share. This traveler arrived in the town where the people didn't share and she (or he) realized that she was very hungry! She knocked on the doors in the town and asked the people if they could share some food with her. Do you think the people shared? No, they weren't very good at sharing. Go around to the children asking the children if they have food, as they shake their heads no.**

**Well, the traveler was good at sharing, and she was a little sneaky too. She sat down in the middle of the town, and said, "It's too bad no one has any food. I will make some stone**

**soup for all of us to share!” So she got out a big pot** *(use the pot and spoon)*, **filled it with water from the well, plopped in a big stone** *(use the one you showed at the beginning)*, **and began stirring the pot over a warm fire. She sniffed the soup and said, loudly, “Oh, how I love Stone Soup! This is going to be a delicious soup!”**

**Well the townspeople began to be very curious. They wondered how someone could make soup from just a stone! They began to watch the traveler. She stirred and sniffed and said, “Oh, this soup will be marvelous! If only I had some chicken broth, then it would be really delicious!”** *Encourage the child with the broth to suddenly decide to share. Receive it graciously and put the whole jar or can, unopened, directly into the pot, pretending to stir above it. Continue on with each ingredient, bundling a few together if you need to keep things moving, (“If only I had some carrots and celery, then it would really be delightful!”) Really play it up, using a wide variety of words for “good” when describing how the soup smells and will taste (delightful, delectable, delicious, scrumptious) pairing several together for great affect. Continue until all of the items have been placed in the pot.*

**Finally, the stone soup was finished! Do you think the traveler decided to share the soup with the townspeople? Of course she did! They had shared with her and she wanted to share with them.** *Pretend to pour soup into their hands and everyone pretends to eat. The townspeople were so amazed that such a delicious soup could be made from just a stone! But was it really made from just a stone? No, the soup was made delicious because everyone shared! After sharing the soup, the traveler moved on her way. But first, she washed off the stone, and put it in her pocket, in case she needed to make stone soup again someday!*