

## Discussion questions after reading “Stone Soup”

1. What did you think of the soup tonight? What ingredients would have made it better? What if the beef broth or hamburger was missing?

2. Let’s compare our pot of stone soup to us, as a group of young women. How are we like that pot of soup?

- Thinking about our soup, what was your favourite ingredient? What ingredients would have made it better? What if the beef broth or hamburger had been missing? Without particular ingredients, the soup is not as tasty. We need each of you to be in our young women’s soup. Each one of you is important!
- Every ingredient can be unique and still contributes to the flavour. You can all be different and still belong.

2a. What makes each of you unique? Physical appearance, upbringing, likes / dislikes, skills/abilities, hopes and dreams.

3. Considering the story, why do you think particular villagers were at first unlikely to share their own ingredients? How does this compare to us?

- Sometimes we are not willing to share our talents, or choose not to let others get to know us.
- Also, sometimes we choose not to take the initiative to get to know others.

4. What was the role of the little girl who came forward to offer her soup pot? What if she hadn’t come forward? Within our YW, how could you be like or unlike the girl?

5. How did the villagers feel in the end? Was their original fear accurate or justified? How does this compare to us?

- We might be inaccurately judging /fearing others – but if we gave them a chance, perhaps we would discover something wonderful: some stone soup, and friends to share it with!

*(At this point, the YW counsellor told a story of a time when she was assigned to visit teach a ‘difficult’ person, who constantly gave ‘cold pricklies’. Although she didn’t enjoy the cold pricklies, she remained a constant visiting teacher. Over time, she got to know this woman and they have become good friends – a great treasure was found! You could use your own story here.)*

6. What type of young women’s village do you want to live in? Pre or post stone soup?