

Study Guide - 19 April, 2020

Series: Giving

Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15



This guide will help you facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. You should spend at least half your time discussing questions that are application focused. Look at the Big Idea and What your CG Must Take Away sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused.

Goal of giving series

For your CG to develop a sense of generosity that is motivated by grace. For your group to be willing to pour out their lives and finances for the kingdom advancing, through generosity towards fellow CG members, the rest of RHC and the global church at large.

Context of 2 Corinthians 8-9

There are believers who are struggling in Jerusalem (Rom 15v25, 1 Cor 16v1-4, Gal 2v9-10). In Gal 2v9-10, Paul was instructed to remember the poor in his ministry, particularly the Christians in need. This was told to him when he was in Jerusalem for the council of Jerusalem, and approved for ministry. In Rom 15v25, Paul says he is going past Jerusalem to bring aid to the saints in need. In 1 Cor 16v1-4 Paul says the church is to set aside some money every week which can be sent as a gift to Jerusalem. This is what our text in 2 Cor 8-9 relates to.

Big idea

Giving is motivated by grace. This grace is that Christ became poor so that we may become rich in him. God has provided an abundance to his church so that we can build one another up and supply each other's needs.

What your CG must take away from this study

For your CG to treasure the riches God has given us which is Jesus, and for your group to respond to this grace with generosity towards one another and the church at large (the needs of other Christians).

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

1 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— 5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. 6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. 7 But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

10 And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. 11 So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. 12 For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. 13 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness 14 your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. 15 As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

Q1. What are some characteristics of the Macedonian church that Paul commends in v1-5?

Q2. Giving is referred to as an act of “grace” in v1, 4, 6, 9. How is giving an act of grace?

Q3. What is Paul asking the church in Corinth to do? (6-8, 10-11, 14)

Q4. How does Paul motivate the Christians in Corinth to give generously to the Jerusalem Christians in verses 1-7? How does seeing other Christians’ generosity encourage us?

Q5. How do these verses describe the responsibility we have as the church of God?

Q6. How has Jesus’ poverty made us rich (v9)? What is meant by this?

Q7. How does treasuring the riches we have in Christ empower us to be generous?

Q8. In what areas has God given you an abundance so that you can give generously to others?

Q9. How can you show generosity to Christians in need in the current season?

Q10. What are the needs in our group? Are there any ways we can care for you as a CG during this time?

Apply Practically

Pray in your group for each of the needs and that God would give you an abundance of his grace so that you can give generously to one another and to other Christians.