

Give Your Money Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. If someone were going to give a \$10,000 gift to a non-religious charity in your name, what charity would you choose?
2. Do you usually eat breakfast? If so, what do you typically eat?

Read the following passage: Read 2 Corinthians 8 - 9.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What experiences and examples have most shaped your attitude toward money and giving? What are some of the most common reasons people donate money to an individual, organization, or cause?
2. Why do you think Paul describes the Macedonians' giving as "grace" given to the Macedonians by God? How might this understanding of grace be different from how we typically think about grace? Respond to the following statement: "We don't just measure God's grace by what we receive, but by what he enables us to give away."
3. What considerations might enable us to think about giving as a privilege? What is the potential danger in consistently giving only out of a sense of obligation? Do you give joyfully?
4. Paul was organizing the gift for the Jerusalem church not just to meet a need, but out of a desire to heal and unify the church. What are some ways that giving can do more than just meet a material need?
5. Paul tells the Corinthians that he wants to "test the sincerity of [their] love" (2 Corinthians 8:8). In what sense is giving a test? What does the way we use our money reveal about us? What does Jesus' giving reveal about what he loves? (See 2 Corinthians 8:9.)
6. What are some of the primary obstacles we face to giving generously? If we don't have very much money, is it even worth giving anything at all? Explain.
7. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-2. How can we practically apply in our context Paul's instructions to the Corinthians?
8. Do you regularly give to your local church or any other organizations? Does your giving make up a non-trivial percentage of your income?

9. What in this lesson has challenged you the most? Are there any changes you would like to make to your giving?

Pray