

2 CORINTHIANS 8 / NOVEMBER 9

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Read & Pray

The sermon this week covers 2 Corinthians 8. To begin our discussion, we will read **8:1–15** together. After reading, spend 60 seconds in silent listening prayer. What applications or thoughts about the text came into your mind? Might those be from the Spirit? Close with a prayer to God for wisdom to apply these truths.

Sermon Recap (to *apply*, not rehash the sermon)

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- “Paul uses the word ‘grace’ more in these two chapters than in all his other New Testament writings combined.”
- “The Bible indicates two reliable indicators of your faith: what you do with your money and your ‘idle’ words uttered in secret.”
- “Generosity is not something God wants from you; it’s something he wants for you.”
- “When you hoard and refuse to share because you’re afraid that tomorrow there won’t be a God to provide for you ... well, functionally, you’re thinking like an atheist.”
- “The gospel is not about a God who approaches us with needs. No, he’s always the giver and we’re always the receiver.”

Group Discussion

1. What makes you nervous to talk about money at church or with your church community?
2. Read v. 9. How does “knowing the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ” change our relationship with money and possessions?
3. The Macedonians had an “abundance of joy” in “extreme poverty.” When have you seen generosity and joy connected?
4. Pastor J.D. said it’s easy to intend to be generous but hard to finish. What practical barriers keep you from faithfully living out your steward identity?
5. How can we ensure our giving comes from the gospel “root” and isn’t just “stapling roses” of good behavior onto a dead bush?

TESTIMONY

- ☐ Share a time when you gave sacrificially (even a small amount) and like the Macedonians, experienced an “abundance of joy” as a result.

PRAYER

- Ask God to give us a fresh revelation of the
- ☐ grace of Jesus, who became poor for our sake, that we might become rich.
- ☐ Ask God to fill our congregation with the same “abundance of joy” he gave the Macedonians, leading to a wealth of cheerful generosity.