

financial discipleship



**small
groups**
LIFE TOGETHER

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“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work”

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7-8

SERIES RESOURCES

Books: Rod Irvine – *“Giving Generously”*

Video: The Bible project – God the generous host

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1079658942800661>

Article: Keller on Generosity - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/more-than-money-tim-keller-on-how-to-live-generously/>

STUDY ONE

2 CORINTHIANS 8

DISCUSSION STARTERS

What is something that you did today that involved money in some way?

What are the first things that come into your mind when you hear that church is going to preach a series on financial discipleship?

When is the last time you did a spiritual audit of your budget and financial habits?

What is something that stood out for you in last week's sermon?

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8

1. **2 Cor 8:1-2:** How does Paul describe the Macedonian churches' response to their own trials and poverty in terms of generosity? What can we learn from their example about giving, even in difficult circumstances?

2. **2 Cor 8:3**: What does it mean that the Macedonians gave 'according to their means, and beyond their means, of their own accord'? How can we apply this principle of sacrificial giving in our own lives?

3. **2 Cor 8:4**: Why do you think the Macedonian believers begged Paul for the 'favour of taking part in the relief of the saints'? What does this tell us about their attitude toward giving and community?

4. **2 Cor 8:5**: What significance is there in the fact that the Macedonians 'first gave themselves to the Lord and then by the will of God to us'? How does giving ourselves to God influence our financial generosity?

5. **2 Cor 8:7-8**: Paul encourages the Corinthians to excel in the grace of giving. How does he compare financial generosity to other Christian virtues? Why is it important to grow in this area?

6. **2 Cor 8:9**: How does Paul use the example of Jesus Christ to motivate the Corinthians to give generously? What does Jesus' sacrifice teach us about the nature of true generosity?

7. **2 Cor 8:10-11**: What advice does Paul give about completing the act of giving? Why is it important to follow through on our commitments to generosity?

8. **2 Cor 8:12-15**: How does Paul address the issue of fairness and equality in giving? What principles can we derive from his teaching to guide our own practices of financial generosity within our communities?

REFLECTION

Write down 1 or 2 things that have challenged you from this study, and that you might need to pray about and/or take action with in your life. Then write down 1 or 2 action steps for you to process (the bare minimum is to pray during this series that God's generosity might melt your heart and shape your habits).

STUDY TWO

2 CORINTHIANS 9

DISCUSSION STARTERS

What is an example of generosity you have experienced in the last week, or a memorable moment when you have experienced generosity in your life?

What is something that stood out for you in last week's sermon?

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 9

1. **2 Cor 9:1-2**: Why does Paul emphasize his confidence in the Corinthians' readiness to give? How can we prepare ourselves to be ready and eager to give generously?

2. **2 Cor 9:3-5**: What is the purpose of Paul sending the brothers to the Corinthians before he arrives? How can we ensure that our acts of giving are not done reluctantly or under pressure but are prepared and willing?

3. **2 Cor 9:6**: What does Paul mean when he says, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully”? How does this principle of sowing and reaping apply to our financial generosity?

4. **2 Cor 9:7**: How does Paul describe the attitude we should have when giving? Why is it important to be a cheerful giver, and what steps can we take to cultivate this attitude?

5. **2 Cor 9:8-9**: How does Paul describe God’s ability to bless us when we give generously? What assurance do these verses provide about God’s provision and the impact of our generosity?

6. **2 Cor 9:10-11**: How does God provide both the resources and the willingness to give? In what ways can we trust God to supply and multiply our resources for generosity?

7. **2 Cor 9:12-13**: What are the outcomes of the ministry of giving described by Paul? How does our generosity meet the needs of others and bring glory to God?

8. **2 Cor 9:14-15**: How do the prayers and thanksgiving of others play a role in the cycle of generosity? Why is recognising and thanking God for His indescribable gift essential in understanding and practicing financial generosity?

REFLECTION

Write down 1 or 2 things that have challenged you from this study, and that you might need to pray about and/or take action with in your life. Then write down 1 or 2 action steps for you to process (the bare minimum is to pray during this series that God's generosity might melt your heart and shape your habits).

STUDY THREE

LUKE 16:1-15

DISCUSSION STARTERS

Why do you think we get so sensitive when we talk about money or giving or being generous?

What does the culture around us teach us about money and investment?

What is something that stood out for you in last week's sermon?

READ LUKE 16:1-15

1. **Luke 16: 1-2:** In the parable of the dishonest manager, why does the rich man call his manager to account for his stewardship? How does this scenario challenge us to evaluate how we are using our resources in light of eternity?

2. **Luke 16: 3-4:** The dishonest manager quickly thinks of a plan to secure his future. How does his sense of urgency and foresight contrast with our typical approach to investing in the kingdom of heaven? What can we learn from his example, even if his methods were unethical?

3. **Luke 16: 8-9:** Jesus commends the shrewdness of the dishonest manager, not his dishonesty. How can we apply the principle of being shrewd or wise in using worldly wealth to gain eternal friends and invest in the kingdom of heaven?

4. **Luke 16: 10-12:** Jesus emphasizes faithfulness in little things as a prerequisite for being entrusted with greater things. How does our handling of material possessions reflect our readiness for spiritual responsibilities in the kingdom of heaven?

5. **Luke 16: 13-15:** Jesus warns that we cannot serve both God and money. How does our attitude towards wealth and material possessions reveal whom we truly serve? What steps can we take to ensure that our investment is in the kingdom of heaven rather than in worldly riches?

REFLECTION

In the light of this study (and the previous two studies), how has your approach to wealth been challenged, encouraged or emboldened to do more of the same?

In the light of the needs of St Paul's to resource the mission of bringing the Hills to know Jesus, building disciples up in Jesus, and sending people out to live and speak for Jesus, what might you be able to do with what God has placed in your hands in order to bless others?

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