

LifeGroup Meeting

Heroes of the Bible 4
"Paul"

Get To Know You Question:

If you won the lottery what would you spend some of your money on?

Let's Dig Deeper

1. Someone read all of **2 Corinthians 8:1-9**. Spend some time and share some key words that spoke out to you while reading. What is it about those words that spoke to you? Try to find something that you didn't see last time you read this.
2. What is your concept of generosity?
3. The Macedonian churches are set as an example of how Christians should approach generosity. Using **2 Corinthians 8:1-5**, come up with a list of how Paul describes the Macedonian churches' circumstances at this time.
 - What from your list would you say would be the most important factor for their generosity?
 - What from this list motivated the radical generosity?
4. Notice how the work of Jesus (**verse 9**) is used as our example and our fuel to give. How does a proper understanding of the gospel actually increase our love for God and people while decreasing our love for self and possessions?
 - It appears that the ultimate goal of our generosity is not first to supply a need, but to glorify God. Why is it important to be generous as a means to give glory to God?
 - Share a time when you were in need and God sent aid to you.
5. Why is generosity and affordability two different things? Explain the difference between the two.
 - Why does generosity not consult affordability when it comes to giving?
 - Where does affordability have its place?
 - Where does generosity have its place?

- Most times when preachers talk about money, most people think the preachers are talking about money. However, after hearing about the Macedonians and their generosity, when preachers are talking about money, what are they really talking about?
6. Look at **2 Corinthians 8:6**. Paul calls generosity an act of Grace. Why is being generous a form of grace?
 - What does grace have to do with giving?
 - What does giving look like when it isn't accompanied by grace?
 - What does it look like when grace prompts our giving?
 7. What does it mean to commit ourselves first to the Lord and then to others (**2 Cor. 8:5**)? Why does this make a difference in addressing the needs of the poor?
 8. Paul was willing to risk his relationship with the Corinth church by sharing the secret of living a blessed life. But to do that we must give. Why was it important for Paul to talk about money to a church that was not on the best terms with Paul.
 - Why do you think we get so uptight when people talk to us about money?
 - Do you think our uptightness is a result that maybe our money is an idol in our lives, and that we have not fully giving ourselves "first to the Lord".
 - What are some ways we can see our money as a means to be generous to our church community and to the community at large?
 9. Let's pray.