

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing and leading your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything this week that really stood out to you? Was there anything that was brand new to you or something God made very clear to you this week?

Introduction

Who in your life is someone that you would consider a generous person?

What traits or values do you notice as they serve others?

Digging In

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Paul is writing to the church in Corinth about the radical generosity that the believers in Macedonia were showing as an example for them to follow. Pastor Jeff asked this question as it relates to our lives: **“What do the Blessed give?”**

Pastor Jeff went through 5 different ways that people who want to experience the Blessed Life give.

- They give **GRACIOUSLY** (v.1). Paul is saying that they had experienced the grace of God and were beginning to give back.
 1. Can you describe a time where you experienced God’s grace in your life, and you wanted to give back in a way of response? Why do you think you were prompted in that way?
- They gave **SACRIFICIALLY** (v. 2) Paul is giving an example to the Corinthian church of how the Macedonian church were being persecuted, and very poor but still gave!
 2. Think of a time in your life where you sacrificed something for the sake of somebody else? What motivated that sacrifice?
- 3. What did it cost you? **Read 2 Samuel 24:24**
 - They gave **PROPORTIONALLY** (v. 3) Paul says that the Macedonians were giving based off of what they had, according to their means.
 4. What are some of the biggest obstacles as to why people aren’t generous with their money? How about you?

5. Read **Luke 21:1-4**. Why do you think Jesus tells us this story? How does this relate to us when it comes to giving?
 - They gave **FREELY** (v.4) – Paul says that the people of Macedonia were so excited to give and help out, they were begging for the opportunity!
6. When was the last time you begged for the opportunity to freely give away some of your financial resources? Has it ever happened? When was the last time somebody begged to give you money?
 - They gave unreservedly to **GOD** (v. 5) – Paul says that the people of Macedonia devoted themselves to God first, and it motivated their generous giving.
7. How do you remind yourself on a regular basis that all you have has been given to you by God? Explain the difference between an owner and a steward.
8. Read David’s prayer in **1 Chronicles 29:14-16**. How does this view of your possessions and wealth redirect your thinking on giving?

Taking it Home

1. Sit down with your spouse (or someone to help keep you accountable), write down and make a decision on how you can be generous with what God has given you.

Praise / Prayer Requests

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