

*Sermon Questions for Life Groups*

***A Generous Grace: 2 Cor. 8:1-9***

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Sunday, March 11, 2018

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions  
or family or personal devotions*

1. When Paul thinks of generosity, he thinks of the Macedonians. Who do you think of?
2. Have you ever known someone to receive a gift and give it away? (and not in the context of re-gifting something they didn't like!)
3. In what condition were the churches of Macedonia at this time in regard to their circumstances? Yet what was their spiritual attitude, and in what four ways did it show itself? To what does Paul attribute their response to?
4. Pastor Dave spoke about verse 5 being a time of critical decision for the Macedonians. What was that critical decision? What would be a motivating factor for the Macedonians to make this decision? (Reference Romans 12:1)
5. What does it mean to first give ourselves fully to Christ (vs5)? How do we live that out?
6. Does joy have any part in your giving to the Lord? Is there a different way that the offering can be taken, in which we can express joy in giving?
7. Paul notes that the Macedonian church has given beyond their ability in vs 3. Thinking of your own giving, in a practical sense, what would classify as going beyond your own ability?
8. Do you have any tendency toward being parsimonious?

9. A main reason for a lack of generosity is that we are fearful. What are we fearful of, and what does Scripture have to say? Do some digging!
  
10. As you read this passage, discuss what the difference(s) might be between the grace that God had given to the Macedonians in verse 1 compared to the grace of giving in verse 7? Share what you believe to be the meaning of the word grace?
  
11. Paul encouraged the Corinthians in vs 7 for their excelling in many things, but ends the praise with a note of challenge to examine their giving. Why is it that we need to be reminded to examine our giving, especially when things seem to be going so well?
  
12. Read through to 2 Corinthians 9:15 to see Paul's overall theme of oneness of believers, and how money relates to it.
  
13. What are the blessings of generosity? What has been your experience?
  
14. What role could Ephesians 3:20 have, as we think about giving?
  
15. "*Material prosperity* can sometimes cloak *spiritual poverty*, and *material poverty* can sometimes reveal underlying *spiritual wealth*." Discuss this old saying - does it have any potential truth. Where have you seen examples of this being true and other examples where this is not the case? What are some dangerous judgments that can happen?

### **Prayer Requests:**

1. Pray for the Haiti Team as they continue to serve with love and the Truth. Pray that the Spirit would move, that those who serve in that country would be encouraged, and for our Team's safe return on Wednesday.
2. Pray for the several guests who will be coming for a Chinese New Year follow-up meeting this Thursday, where they will be presented with opportunities to learn about the Christian faith and trust in Him!