



THE GREAT OPPORTUNITY

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Great Opportunity: **For Generosity/For the Gospel**

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

March 20/21, 2021

Part 1: Pray

The primary goal for our small group meetings is to experience Jesus in our midst in his presence and power. We want him to be at work by His Spirit ministering to us and through us to one another so that people are cared for and encouraged to lead God-pleasing lives. Ask God to reveal his truth in this passage to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases, or major themes.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. What comes to mind when churches talk about giving? Is it positive or negative? Does it bring guilt, anger, joy?
2. How would you rate yourself as a giver? What kind of giver would you like to be? (Meant to be a self-reflection question.)

Initial Giver > Emerging Giver > Intentional Giver > Tithing Giver > Extravagant Giver

The Test: The Fruit of Grace (Generous, Sacrificial, Glad Giving)

1. Ray stated that some people think they will give more when they make more. However, those who make more, don't give more. In fact, they give less, much less of a percentage than those who make less. Why do you think this is?
2. Can you think of people who sacrificially gave of themselves for you? Share with the group how they blessed you.
3. Read Mark 12:41-44. Why do you think the widow give all that she had? What do you think her attitude was while giving? Hopeful, desperate, faith-filled, cheerful?

The Test: The Root of Grace

1. 2 Corinthians 8:9 starts with the assumption that we know the grace of the Lord Jesus. Slowly read the verse and consider Paul's gospel logic. How should this motivate us to be generous?

"He was rich..." refers to Christ's preexistent status as the eternal Son of God in heaven (John 1:1-3; Galatians 4:4; Philippians 2:6).

"For our sakes he became poor..." refers to the humility of his incarnation, including his death (Romans 15:3; Philippians 2:7-8).

"That you through his poverty might become rich" refers to salvation and all the benefits that flow from it (Ephesians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 1:20).

2. Look again at 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 and 9:6-15. Make a list of the reasons why the Corinthians were to give generously, sacrificially, and gladly. How should this guide us in our giving?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow Jesus?