

**Life Group Guide 2 Cor 8:1–15 “God Honoring Attitudes in Christian Giving”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Apr 14 & For Use in Life Groups through Sun Apr 21**

Icebreaker Question

What is the most memorable gift you have ever received? What is the gift you were most excited to give?

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. Honoring God in our giving requires an attitude of generosity (vv. 1-5).**
 - a. An Example of Generosity (v. 1)
 - b. An Explanation of Generosity (vv. 2-5)
 - i. Outward circumstances is not what makes a person generous (v. 2).
 - ii. Ability is not what makes a person generous (vv. 3-4).
 - iii. The secret of true generosity is availability (v. 5).
- II. Honoring God in our giving requires an attitude of sincerity (vv. 6-12).**
 - a. The Test of Sincerity (vv. 8-9)
 - i. Sincere giving is voluntary (v. 8).
 - ii. Sincere giving is sacrificial (v. 9).
 - b. The Testimony of Sincerity (vv. 6-7, 10-12)
 - i. There is a difference between promise and performance (vv. 6-7).
 - ii. If the willing is sincere and in the will of God, then there must be “a performance also” (v. 11).
 - c. Four Truths About Sincere Christian Giving
 - i. Christian giving is a discipline of discipleship (Phil. 4:11-12).
 - ii. Christian giving is management of God’s money (1 Sam. 2:7).
 - iii. Christian giving is ministry with God’s money (2 Cor. 8:1-5).
 - iv. Christian giving is a mind-set regarding God’s money (Matt. 25:14-30).
- III. Honoring God in our giving requires an attitude of equality (vv. 13-15).**
 - a. The Motive for Giving (vv. 13-15)
 - b. The Measure for Giving (v. 14)

2 Cor 8:1–4

Read 2 Cor 8:1–4: Observation:

1. In v. 1, where does Paul say that God has recently displayed his grace?
2. What were the circumstances of the churches in Macedonia according to v. 2? What did they do in the midst of those circumstances?
3. In v. 3, how does Paul describe the giving of the Macedonian Christians?
4. According to v. 4, Paul apparently was reluctant to ask the Macedonian Christians to participate in the giving because they were so poor. How did the Macedonian Christians respond to this?
5. According to v. 5, How does Paul explain the crazy generosity of the Macedonian Christians?

Interpretation:

6. By describing the generosity of the Macedonian Christians, Paul is describing the true secret to generosity in the life of every believer? Walk through this text. What does Paul say is the source of a generous life?

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Application:

7. What are some reasons people have for not giving to the work of the Lord? Based on Scripture (this and others), how would you answer them?
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2 Cor 8:6–12

Read 2 Cor 8:6–12: Observation

8. Whom did Paul send to Corinth in v. 6-7? Why did he send him?
9. According to v. 8, why doesn't Paul simply command the Corinthians to give to the cause (as would be his right as an Apostle)?
10. Since he is already talking about money, Paul describes the gospel in financial terms in v. 9. What does he say?
11. What concern does Paul have for the Corinthians according to vs. 10-11?
12. According to v. 12, what is one important principle for giving?

Interpretation:

13. In this section of the text (vs. 6-12), Paul gives us a number of additional principles for giving and generosity. Pastor Richard categorized these as the “Test of Sincerity” in his sermon. Review these principles. What does Paul say?

Application:

14. What happens when we encourage or participate in “giving” that is neither voluntary nor sacrificial (or violate any of the above principles)? What is the real danger here?
 15. In the sermon, Pastor Richard gave four truths about sincere giving (see above). If someone in your group was struggling with these four truths, how might you disciple him or her in this area?
 16. Memorize v. 9 this week and recite it when you need a powerful reminder of the gospel:
“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”
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2 Cor 8:13–15

Read 2 Cor 8:13–15: Observation

17. According to vs. 13-14, what does Paul give as another principle of giving?
18. Where does the quote in v. 15 come from? What Old Testament event is it discussing?

Interpretation:

19. How is our giving an act of equality according to vs. 13-15? How does the example of the manna in the wilderness illustrate the point Paul is making?

Application:

20. 2 Corinthians 8-9 is the most complete discussion on giving and generosity in the entire New Testament, and not once does Paul mention tithing (either by name or in principle). Does the New Testament prescribe a set amount of required giving for a believer to be obedient? How should we think about our giving in light of a specific amount or percentage?
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