



2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15 & VARIOUS OTHER TEXTS

Community Group Study Guide Week of October 13, 2019

We continued our series "Tough & Tender" this week by looking at how to "lion and lamb" our finances. Some of us are prone to compulsively spend all that we have, while others are more likely to save and hoard their finances. Jesus teaches us a third option. In Christ, we are not called to be spenders, or savers, but generous givers. True love is expressed through giving. In the greatest act of love God the Father gave his son, and Jesus Christ gave his life to purchase the redemption of God's children from slavery to sin and death.

Money is a powerful tool. Like any tool it can be used for great evil or great good. It can master us as an idol, or we can steward it for God's glory. God desires that his children be generous givers, not under compulsion, but as a joyful response to all the blessings we've been given in Christ. The freedom to be generous however, is only possible once we've developed the discipline of financial responsibility. Scripture is packed full of practical wisdom for how to handle our finance in a godly way. When we do, we free to stop serving money, and start serving with our money. We need a lion like strength to fight against greed, covetousness, and discontentment. We also need a lamb like humility to affirm that everything we have belongs to God and we are responsible to manage it in ways that bless others, further God's Kingdom, and bring Him glory. On the basis of God's generosity, here are some ways we can grow in generosity ourselves.

Lion Your Finances:

1. Be Content
2. Work Hard and Smart
3. Live Below Your Means
4. Steward Wisely
5. Save Wisely
6. Invest Wisely
7. Stay out of Debt

Lamb Your Finances:

1. Give to the Lord
2. Provide for Your Household
3. Give Generously

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand God's generosity toward us and gain practical wisdom to manage our finances in ways that allow us to be generous as well.

Heart

To trust that God is a good Father who will provide for our deepest needs.

Hands

To become more responsible and generous with the material things God has called us to steward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership or Baptism:

Contact

admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact Andy Hoot at andy@mosaicboston.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

1. What stood out to you from these texts or the sermon this week? What did you find challenging, convicting, or encouraging?
2. What are some ways that the Gospel of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ changes the way we look at money?
3. The freedom to be generous requires the discipline to be financially responsible. Pastor Jan gave us 7 practical applications (see page 1) to help us "Lion" our finances. How has God helped you grow in some of these areas? Are there any that you are growing in now, or feel you need to grow in?
4. Have you developed any skills or strategies in any of these areas that you could teach to others? What is some of the best financial wisdom you've learned and put into practice?
5. Why are greed, covetousness, and discontentment so dangerous? How do we protect our hearts and fight against these temptations?
6. The reason we "Lion" our finances by living responsibly, is to have the freedom to "lamb" our finances by living generously. Pastor Jan gave us 3 practice ways that we are called to live generously as Christian (see page 1). Why is it helpful to keep these goals in mind, and how might it change the way we think about how we use money?
7. Before thinking about how to manage our money, why is it important to understand the principle of the tithe? Why might people be afraid to tithe? How should obeying this principle actually give us peace and joy, and start us out on a solid foundation for stewarding our resources well?
8. We are called to give generously to God's Mission and this happens primarily by giving to the "Household of God" (the Church in general and the local church we belong to in particular). We're also called to provide generously for our own household. How do we live in the tension of enjoying God's material blessings without being wasteful or overindulgent?

For Personal Reflection: Proverbs 13:22 talks about the wise man leaving an inheritance for his children's children. Have you ever thought about setting a goal like this? What would it take to manage your resources in such a way that you can Give to God's mission/church, provide for your family, live generously, and still leave an inheritance to your grandchildren?