

# Standalone Sermon

LIFE GROUP NOTES



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## ***2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15 – GENEROSITY***

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### **GETTING STARTED...**

Who is the most generous person that you know? What makes them generous? Generosity can be seen in a number of different ways, with money, time, or energy. Generosity always starts in the heart, not the wallet. We do not become generous when we have “enough” but it is a condition of the heart. Jesus calls his followers to be generous because of what he has done for them. Jesus has given us everything that we have, and therefore we are called to joyfully and freely give to others. This is the heart condition of generosity, it is a gospel-centered transformation of our lives. It is only when we understand what Jesus has done for us that we can be truly generous!

### **READ THE TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15**

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup> for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup> For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, <sup>4</sup> begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— <sup>5</sup> and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

<sup>6</sup> Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. <sup>7</sup> But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

<sup>8</sup> I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. <sup>11</sup> So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. <sup>12</sup> For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. <sup>13</sup> For I do not mean that others should be eased

and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness <sup>14</sup> your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. <sup>15</sup> As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

## UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Look at 1 Corinthians 16:1-3 to see the context of this passage. What is Paul asking them to do? How does Paul expect them to practice this generosity?
2. Paul uses the examples of both the Macedonian church and the example of Jesus to encourage the church. How does each example show us the heart of generosity?

## REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

## APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

*Agassiz & Lake Errock* How is giving a reflection of the gospel? How did Jesus give to us? How could you practically grow in giving? Is there a need among you that you could meet?

*Chilliwack* It may seem counterintuitive to us but “a severe test of affliction”, “extreme poverty”, “abundance of joy” and “a wealth of generosity” are all used to describe the Macedonian churches. Is your relationship with money being sanctified by Jesus? Is the gospel generosity shown to you producing gospel generosity in you?

*Harrison* How has God's gift of grace in Christ to you impacted your generosity to others? How might God want to continue growing your understanding of his grace by growing your generosity?

*Promontory* Do you find that you are joyful in giving or dutiful in your giving? What are ways that we can maintain an attitude of readiness to be generous? How do we practice this now?

## PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



## How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*