

Together

Giving 10/1/2023

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Icebreaker

What is your favorite charity you give to? —OR—

Which is easiest for you to give, money, time, or effort? —OR—

What state gives the largest percentage of its income to charity? *Mississippi, the poorest state*

Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What struggles did you face?

What can you share from your personal Bible reading?

Where did you see God in your daily life?

Step 2: GET FED

Scripture

James 1:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Matthew 7:7-11 (ESV) ⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Acts 20:35 (ESV) ³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (ESV) ¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. ² On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

2 Corinthians 9:6-12 (ESV) ⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which

through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹² For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

Mark 12:41-44 (ESV) ⁴¹ And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. ⁴³ And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. ⁴⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

Philippians 4:14-20 (ESV) ¹⁴ Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵ And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶ Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (ESV) ¹ We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² 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. ³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵ and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶ Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷ 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.

Discussion Questions

From where do all good gifts come? (James 1:17)

How do we compare to God in giving gifts? (Matt 7:7-11)

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” How many of us feel this way?

To what extent are we to put something aside? (1 Cor 16:1-2) How much have we prospered?

How are we to give? (2 Cor 9:7)

Why does God make grace abound to us? (2 Cor 9:8)

Why will we be enriched? (2 Cor 9:11)

What will our generosity produce? (2 Cor 9:11)

What does the poor widow teach us about giving? (Mark 12:41-44) How well have we learned this lesson?

What will God supply for us? (Phil 4:19) How?

How did the Macedonian churches give? (2 Cor 8:3)

Why did they do this? (2 Cor 8:5)

For what purpose were the Macedonians giving? (2 Cor 8:4)

What are the primary concepts regarding giving we should gain from all these verses?

Purposeful, sacrificially, as we have prospered, cheerfully, bountifully, to help others, not reluctantly/grudgingly

How does my giving correspond with these concepts?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

Pray about our giving status.

Decide in our heart what our level of giving should be.