



2 CORINTHIANS

award

*Leaning into the
Uncomfortable
with Grace*

STUDY GUIDE | PART 2



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 INTRODUCTION: AWKWARD Part 2

5 Week 7 | 2 CORINTHIANS 6:3-13

Sermon Notes + Reading Plan + Group Questions

13 Week 8 | 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-7:1

Sermon Notes + Reading Plan + Group Questions

21 Week 9 | 2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-16

Sermon Notes + Reading Plan + Group Questions

Prayer Experience: An Exercise in Proactive Repentance

31 Week 10 | 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15

Sermon Notes + Reading Plan + Group Questions

39 Week 11 | 2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-9:5

Sermon Notes + Reading Plan + Group Questions

47 Week 12 | 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

Sermon Notes + Reading Plan + Group Questions

Giving Resources

THIS STUDY GUIDE BELONGS TO:

PLEASE ONLY ONE GUIDE PER PERSON.

awkward

Leaning into the
Uncomfortable
with Grace

Ill-fitting, borrowed suit from Dad. Check.
Bizarre flower-bracelet-thing to give as gift. Check.
Being driven by Mom in her Chevy Astro Van. Check.

It had all the awkward makings of a late '90s high school, formal dance (*don't really know how to dance with a girl*; check). And yet, my baby-faced, gangly, freshman self was excited. My attention drawn beyond the awkward features to the end-goal: spending an evening with a cute girl in a pretty dress (blue to match her braces).

It wasn't a particularly spiritual goal. But it's a goal that many can probably understand. Throughout history, humans have undergone countless hoops, pressures, and uncomfortable moments in order to achieve something desirable. It's the idea that some things are more important than the awkwardness of getting there.

It might not have been a spiritual goal, but I hope you can see the spiritual parallel:

Talking about personal, painful hardships and apparent failures. Check.
Having to call out godless partnerships and inappropriate actions. Check.
Talking about money that was promised, but hasn't been collected. Check.

Paul's letter to Corinth is awkward and uncomfortable, both in the relationship and the content. And yet, Paul is willing to keep pressing in. Why? Because his goal is worth the awkwardness. It's worth the risk of being misunderstood, of hurt feelings, and future uncomfortable conversations.

Paul's goal is a healthy church founded upon the gospel of Jesus Christ and living by the grace of God for His glory. It's a far greater goal, and Paul is willing to pay all of the great, uncomfortable costs to help get them there.

So, as we continue in 2 Corinthians, with the next inconvenient subjects, Paul will continue to lean in, rather than duck out, to give Corinth (and us) an understanding of the grace so desperately needed—even if it's **awkward**, because it's worth it.

Grace & Peace,

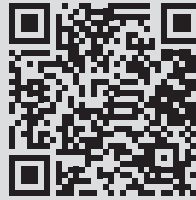
Derick Zeulner

Associate Pastor
South Shores Church
dzeulner@southshores.org

P.S. There are introductory materials to 2 Corinthians found in our Part 1 study guide. If you don't have one, please send me an email and we'll get one for you.

“That’s what it is to be blessed: to be willing to pursue God with wholehearted abandon, even if it means encountering hardship or enduring suffering.”

Wycliffe.org



Scan to read the article:
"The #Blessed Life"

awAward



Week 7

2 Corinthians 6:3-13

*We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians;
our heart is wide open.*

— 2 Corinthians 6:11

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 07 | May 19, 2024

BIG IDEA

NOTES

RESPONSE

S Soak

Read the passage slowly **asking the Holy Spirit to open it to you**. What from its surroundings or style is important?

O Observe

Take note of what is there. What is going on? **What seems significant?** Do you have any questions you'd like to ask the author?

M Meaning

Think through **why this is in the Bible**. What is the author trying to say? What is the main point of the passage? How does God work and where is His grace?

A Apply

The **goal is transformation**. How will the meaning of this passage transform your head (knowledge/beliefs), heart (desires/attitudes), and hands (actions/habits)?

southshores.org/soma

Day 1

2 Corinthians 6:3-10

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

Group Discussion

WEEK 07

INTRO DISCUSSION

When you think of a “blessed” life, what do you picture?

Who has the life you want?

OPEN SHARING (use these questions to look back at your O, M & As of your devotions)

How did God get your attention this week in your devotional reading?

Was there any specific way you wanted to apply your reading into your life?

FINAL QUESTIONS

According to Paul, what are the marks of a life that is commended by God?

How might Paul’s life be considered an obstacle to wanting to follow his teachings? How can endurance highlight God’s grace/activity/power?

Why is Paul concerned about Corinth reciprocating love and affection?

Who has encouraged you spiritually in a significant way? How could you “widen your heart” toward them by giving encouragement or appreciation in return?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, etc. do not sound like the description of a job we’re searching for. Yet, we do want purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God in our lives. Will you help us see that You can turn the one into the other? Your Word says suffering produces endurance, character, and hope. Help us believe and help us keep our love-filled hearts open to those who have poured their love into us. Amen.

Notes/Prayers

WEEK 07

QUICK NOTES

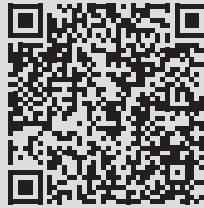
Paul's "Open Heart"

The perfect tense ("we have opened wide our hearts to you") implies that as he had loved them before he continues to love them now. It is as if to say that the breach in their relationship was not caused by him. He may have disapproved of their conduct and sternly rebuked them so that they would change, but such frank criticism does not mean that he abandoned his affection for them. There is plenty of room for them in Paul's heart.

David E. Garland, 2 Corinthians, vol. 29, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 329.

“No cultural, numerical, or relevancy gains are worth surrendering our Biblical conviction or gospel proclamations.”

— Ronni Kurtz
For The Church ftc.co



Scan to read the article: “What Does ‘Unequally Yoked’ Mean in 2 Corinthians 6?”

awAward



Week 8

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

— 2 Corinthians 7:1

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 08 | May 26, 2024

BIG IDEA

NOTES

RESPONSE

S Soak

Read the passage slowly **asking the Holy Spirit to open it to you**. What from its surroundings or style is important?

O Observe

Take note of what is there. What is going on? **What seems significant?** Do you have any questions you'd like to ask the author?

M Meaning

Think through **why this is in the Bible**. What is the author trying to say? What is the main point of the passage? How does God work and where is His grace?

A Apply

The **goal is transformation**. How will the meaning of this passage transform your head (knowledge/beliefs), heart (desires/attitudes), and hands (actions/habits)?

southshores.org/soma

Day 1

2 Corinthians 6:14-16a

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

Group Discussion

WEEK 08

INTRO DISCUSSION

What makes for an awkward partnership? (business, sports, marriage)

When have you had a specific goal, but a partnership kept you from achieving it?

OPEN SHARING (use these questions to look back at your O, M & As of your devotions)

How did God get your attention this week in your devotional reading?

Was there any specific way you wanted to apply your reading into your life?

FINAL QUESTIONS

What is Paul's primary concern with being "unequally yoked"?

What areas of life do you think this prohibition has bearing?

Why do you think the Bible is so concerned with holiness?

How can you make your own sanctification a greater priority? What would that look like? What partnerships can help you in that direction?

PRAYER

Holy God, Lord Almighty, cleanse us from every defilement of body and spirit, bring our holiness to completion. Help us to see where we are joining our bodies or minds together with ungodliness—making partnerships that lead to our harm rather than to Your glory. Train us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives as we wait for the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Notes/Prayers

WEEK 08

QUICK NOTES

Yoke

A shaped piece of wood placed across the necks of draft animals such as oxen or donkeys to enable a pair to pull a plow, cart, or heavy load together. As a yoke enabled two to pull as one, the term also denoted a team, a “yoke of oxen”. Figurative uses of “yoke” are drawn from its literal characteristics—that it bound one to another and that it teamed one with another. In its binding function, the yoke often represents slavery or servitude. The yoke’s teaming function is a pattern for some of Israel’s more foolish alliances. Num. 25:3,5 depicts Israel’s worship of Baal in similar terms. In fact, Israel so often preferred an idol’s yoke to Yahweh’s (Jer. 2:20; 5:5) that the Lord appointed them to a yoke of bondage instead (Hos. 11:1–7).

Allen C. Myers, *The Eerdmans Bible Dictionary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1987), 1077.


Instead of obsessing over regrets and feeling bad due to the opinions of others, godly grief mourns for sin, turns from sin, and finds forgiveness for sin in Christ.

— Kevin DeYoung
theGospelCoalition.org



Scan to read the blog post: "Godly Grief"

awAward



Week 9

2 Corinthians 7:2-16

*For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation
without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.*

— 2 Corinthians 7:10

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 09 | June 2, 2024

BIG IDEA

NOTES

RESPONSE

S Soak

Read the passage slowly **asking the Holy Spirit to open it to you**. What from its surroundings or style is important?

O Observe

Take note of what is there. What is going on? **What seems significant?** Do you have any questions you'd like to ask the author?

M Meaning

Think through **why this is in the Bible**. What is the author trying to say? What is the main point of the passage? How does God work and where is His grace?

A Apply

The **goal is transformation**. How will the meaning of this passage transform your head (knowledge/beliefs), heart (desires/attitudes), and hands (actions/habits)?

southshores.org/soma

Day 1

2 Corinthians 7:2-9

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

Group Discussion

WEEK 09

INTRO DISCUSSION

Discuss the following quote:

*“The truth is that there are such things as Christian tears, and too few of us ever weep them.” — John Stott**

*Stott’s words are in response to Jesus’ words: “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4)

OPEN SHARING (use these questions to look back at your O, M & As of your devotions)

How did God get your attention this week in your devotional reading?

Was there any specific way you wanted to apply your reading into your life?

FINAL QUESTIONS

Why does Paul rejoice at the Corinthians’ grief?

What are the differences between godly grief and worldly grief? How have you experienced each one?

Charles Spurgeon said, *“It is easy to bring a man to the river of regret, but you cannot make him drink the water of repentance.”* Why do you think repentance is so difficult? What would help our church to be a place where repentance is more common?

When was the last time you shed tears over your sin?

PRAYER

Father, you do not delight in sacrifice or burnt offering. Instead, you desire my broken and contrite heart. If there is wickedness in me, lead me to repentance. Help me to grieve over my sin. And—revive me. Restore my spirit, comfort me, set my face in the direction of righteousness, lead me to your salvation. Renew my longing for You and for Your people that we might be united in love for one another with a zeal for obedience to your word. Amen.

Notes/Prayers

WEEK 09

QUICK NOTES

Repentance

Literally a change of mind, not about individual plans, intentions, or beliefs, but rather a change in the whole personality from a sinful course of action to God. Such a change is sometimes referred to as “evangelical repentance,” since it arises out of the proclamation of God’s grace to the sinner and the correlative work of the Holy Spirit in the new birth (Jn 3:5–8). Such a change is the fruit of Christ’s victory over death. Such repentance accompanies saving faith in Christ (Acts 20:21). It is inconsistent and unintelligible to suppose that anyone might exercise faith in Christ as the divine Savior from sin who is not aware and repentant of his own sin.

Paul Helm, “Repentance,” Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 1836–1837.

Prayer Experience: An Exercise in Proactive Repentance

Adapted from Kelly Needham, KellyNeedham.com

Repentance is the act of agreeing with God about our sin, turning from it and rejoicing in what God has done for us in Jesus. Most of our repentance is reactive. We repent primarily for the sins that are staring us in the face or the ones that others point out. And honestly, even then, sometimes we delay dealing with our sin.

But what if we weren't just reactive in dealing with our sin, but proactive?

Why Should Repentance Be Proactive?

Why in the world, when everything seems good, would it be beneficial to proactively search for sin to repent of?

John the Baptist said: *"Bear fruits in keeping with repentance."* (Luke 3:8) Consider also 1 John 1:8-10: *"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us."*

The goal is to live a lifestyle of repentance, facing our sinful hearts with boldness, confessing the sin that's there, and believing the Gospel again and again. It is in that broken place of repentance where the Spirit of God begins to change us.

A Spring Cleaning for Your Soul

I encourage you to set aside 1-2 hours to do this exercise in proactive repentance. Think of this like a "spring cleaning" for your soul. This exercise is a time to ask God to shine light on those dark and dusty corners of your heart. It is a time to expose sinful tendencies that you rarely think of or are even aware of. After staring those sins in the face, talking to God about them, confessing them, you then get to seek God and His Word for what true repentance looks like in your life through your actions.

The Assignment

So set aside 1-2 hours, get your Bible out and work through the following tasks. If you can, do this somewhere outside of your normal reading spot. Please take your time as you work through this because rushing will defeat the effectiveness of this exercise.

- 1. Read Psalm 139.** In your journal, write out verses 23-24. Write them out 2 more times. As you are copying these verses, pray them over yourself.
- 2. Write down sins.** Spend 10-20 minutes write down any sins or sinful thought patterns that God brings to mind.

Don't answer texts or emails during this time. If your mind wanders, just reread verses 23-24 again. Use those verses to reign in your thoughts. Listening for God's still small voice is a discipline. It takes focus and work.

Scan to read Kelly's full post in its original form.



3. Take time to process with God any sins He has exposed. Look up verses that come to mind that relate to those sins. Ask God to break your heart over them. Ask Him what repentance looks like. Do not rush this time.

4. Read Daniel 9:1-19. Read through it a second time with the awareness that Daniel was a good man, not outwardly sinning, not in willful rebellion against God or others. He was proactively seeking God. As you read through this second time, think about why a good, decent man might pray this way. Read through a 3rd time, this time make a list with 2 columns in your journal or on a piece of paper. Label the first column: GOD. Label the second column: US. Read Daniel's prayer and list all the things He says about God in the first column and all he says about "we" or "I" in the second column.

Daniel identifies himself with the sinful people around him. He sees the same seed of those sins in himself. Is this something missing in your life? Are you quick to point the finger at others and yet never search your own heart?

5. Make a list of the sins you see in other people that bother you the most. Don't be shy or surface-y. Be brutally honest. What in other believers or nonbelievers drives you crazy.

6. Ask God to show you the seed of that sin in your heart. Spend 10 minutes asking and listening.

7. Through reading Daniel 9, has God revealed any other sins to repent of? Take some time to write those down and process them with God as you did in part 3. Consider reading David's famous prayer of repentance found in Psalm 51 to give you an example of a repentant heart.

8. Finally, answer the following questions:

- Was this an uncomfortable process for you? Why or why not?
- Was there any fear in shining the light in the dark corners of your heart? Were you afraid of what you might find?
- Did God reveal anything in your heart that surprised you? (Ex: Envy when you were certain you aren't an envious person.) Write down up to 3 specific sins or sinful thought patterns God revealed to you in this time.
- In your own words, answer the question "what is repentance?" (Feel free to do some research in your Bible to answer this well.)
- What does "bearing fruit in keeping with repentance" (Luke 3:8) look like in regards to those specific sins you listed earlier? Give some very practical steps/examples of what this will look like for you to walk in repentance from what God has exposed. Remember, exposing sin is always so that through repentance we will change! Not just so that we will know.
- Please write down any other thoughts you have about this process and your experience.
- Lastly, write out a prayer of repentance in regards to these things.

Kelly Needham is the author of *Friendish* and *Purposefooled* and cohost of the *Cleary* podcast, alongside her husband, Jimmy.

You can't keep up with the Joneses when you're committed to radical generosity, and I think that's exactly how God intends it.

— Tim Challies
challies.com



Scan to read the article:
"The Cost of Radical Generosity"

awAward

Week 10

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

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.

— 2 Corinthians 8:9

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 10 | June 9, 2024

BIG IDEA

NOTES

RESPONSE

S Soak

Read the passage slowly **asking the Holy Spirit to open it to you**. What from its surroundings or style is important?

O Observe

Take note of what is there. What is going on? **What seems significant?** Do you have any questions you'd like to ask the author?

M Meaning

Think through **why this is in the Bible**. What is the author trying to say? What is the main point of the passage? How does God work and where is His grace?

A Apply

The **goal is transformation**. How will the meaning of this passage transform your head (knowledge/beliefs), heart (desires/attitudes), and hands (actions/habits)?

southshores.org/soma

Day 1

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S**O****M****A**

Finish your time in prayer.

S**O****M****A**

Finish your time in prayer.

S**O****M****A**

Finish your time in prayer.

S**O****M****A**

Finish your time in prayer.

Group Discussion

WEEK 10

INTRO DISCUSSION

Why is talking about money awkward?

Why is it even more awkward when talked about in church?

OPEN SHARING (use these questions to look back at your O, M & As of your devotions)

How did God get your attention this week in your devotional reading?

Was there any specific way you wanted to apply your reading into your life?

FINAL QUESTIONS

How does joy “throw off the math” for the Macedonian churches?

How can generosity be a grace of God in the life of the giver?

What keeps you from experiencing the grace of giving?

Paul uses the examples of the Macedonians and of Christ, what or who do you think would inspire greater giving in your life?

PRAYER

God of grace, God of abundance, God who gives—help us to see generosity as a grace. Let us see needs as a joy to be met and let us join into your great economy of blessings. Too often we get stingy and tight-fisted around “our” stuff. Instead help us to be open handed, with a spirit of readiness, an abundance of joy, and an overflowing of generosity toward your mission to your people. Amen.

Notes/Prayers

WEEK 10

QUICK NOTES

Christian Giving

The overflow of joy in God that gladly and lovingly meets the need of another person. Giving within the church is central to the character of the people of God because of all that God has given to us. When Paul exhorts the Corinthians to give, he reminds them, “*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*” (2 Cor 8:9). Jesus humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death on a cross (Phil 2:8), and while Christians cannot give another person such a gift of atoning sacrifice, his example is called upon by Paul to bring about generosity in the hearts of the Corinthians. God initiated his love toward us in Christ, and we love one another generously because he first loved us (1 John 4:7–12). Christian giving, based on the work of Christ, is done in joy.

Jeremy Kimble, “Giving in the Life of the Church,” in *Lexham Survey of Theology*, ed. Mark Ward et al. (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018).

A system of financial accountability may seem awkward, time-consuming, or a nuisance. At times it may seem unnecessary. But it is right, and therefore we must take pains to establish proper checks and balances.

— Randy Alcorn
epm.org



Scan to read the article: "Financial Integrity and Accountability in Churches and Ministries"

awAward

Week 11

2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5

We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man.

— 2 Corinthians 8:20-21

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 11 | June 16, 2024

BIG IDEA

NOTES

RESPONSE

aw/ward

Leaning into the
Uncomfortable
with Grace

WEEK 11
DAILY DEVOTIONS

S Soak

Read the passage slowly **asking the Holy Spirit to open it to you**. What from its surroundings or style is important?

O Observe

Take note of what is there. What is going on? **What seems significant?** Do you have any questions you'd like to ask the author?

M Meaning

Think through **why this is in the Bible**. What is the author trying to say? What is the main point of the passage? How does God work and where is His grace?

A Apply

The **goal is transformation**. How will the meaning of this passage transform your head (knowledge/beliefs), heart (desires/attitudes), and hands (actions/habits)?

southshores.org/soma

Day 1

2 Corinthians 8:16-24

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S**O****M****A**

Finish your time in prayer.

S**O****M****A**

Finish your time in prayer.

Group Discussion

WEEK 11

INTRO DISCUSSION

If you give to an organization, charity, or church, do you ever worry about how the money is handled? Why or why not?

What would help you have greater confidence to give?

OPEN SHARING (use these questions to look back at your O, M & As of your devotions)

How did God get your attention this week in your devotional reading?

Was there any specific way you wanted to apply your reading into your life?

FINAL QUESTIONS

How does Paul assure Corinth that the money will be handled well?

How is Paul using this letter to set up Corinth for success in their giving? Why does he care that they complete their giving?

If God owns it all, why do we “give to God”?

What temptations are there for you regarding money? How can generosity help you to develop Christlikeness instead?

PRAYER

Faithful God over all, riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all. We thank You, our God, and praise your glorious name. For all things come from You, and of your own do we give to You. Use our gifts to grow our contentment, to share with others, to lead to good works, and to prepare a foundation for our future. Watch over our church and its financial management, that it would be honorable, not only in Your sight, but also in the sight of others. May there be accountability and wisdom, so we may continue to have confidence in our generosity, and give proof of our love. Amen

Notes/Prayers

WEEK 11

QUICK NOTES

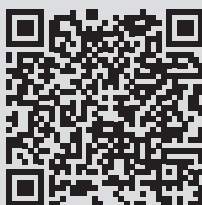
The “Collection”

Near the end of Paul’s ministry, he took up a collection for the poor of the Jerusalem church. Paul collected this money from the Gentile churches which he administered. These included churches in Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth, and Galatia. The importance of this offering for Paul was twofold. First, the offering met an economic need in Jerusalem. Political instability and general economic depression were problems in Palestine. There were dependent widows (Acts 6:1), and the sharing of property offered only temporary relief (Acts 4:32–37). Second, the offering had a theological importance for Paul. The fact that the Gentiles were willing to aid the Jews in this manner validated Paul’s Gentile mission. The offering was evidence that in the Christian family there was neither “Jew nor Greek” (Gal. 3:28).

Lynn Jones with Ellis Terence B., “Collection for the Poor Saints,” ed. Chad Brand et al., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 316–317.

The riches we possess we give away as needed for the kingdom because Christ's goals have become our own — His gracious giving has become the pattern for our lives, and His everlasting inheritance has become our reward.

— James Harvey
Ligonier.org



Scan to read the blog post:
"God Loves a Cheerful Giver"

awAward



Week 12

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.*

— 2 Corinthians 9:6

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 12 | June 23, 2024

BIG IDEA

NOTES

RESPONSE

S Soak

Read the passage slowly **asking the Holy Spirit to open it to you**. What from its surroundings or style is important?

O Observe

Take note of what is there. What is going on? **What seems significant?** Do you have any questions you'd like to ask the author?

M Meaning

Think through **why this is in the Bible**. What is the author trying to say? What is the main point of the passage? How does God work and where is His grace?

A Apply

The **goal is transformation**. How will the meaning of this passage transform your head (knowledge/beliefs), heart (desires/attitudes), and hands (actions/habits)?

southshores.org/soma

Day 1

2 Corinthians 9:6-9

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

S

O

M

A

Finish your time in prayer.

Group Discussion

WEEK 12

INTRO DISCUSSION

Who is a generous person that you admire?

What is attractive to you about becoming more generous? What is terrifying?

OPEN SHARING (use these questions to look back at your O, M & As of your devotions)

How did God get your attention this week in your devotional reading?

Was there any specific way you wanted to apply your reading into your life?

FINAL QUESTIONS

Paul is talking about sowing financially, but reaping spiritual rewards. How does this sound to you?

Do you believe God will supply what you need, so that you are free to be generous? What makes it difficult or easy for you to believe? How is worry a limiting factor?

Paul places a large emphasis on the result of generosity—thanksgiving and glory to God, and prayer for the giver. How important are these to you?

Jesus makes a connection between our “treasure” and our heart. What story do your finances tell about your heart? What would you like that story to be?

PRAYER

To the God who is able to make all grace abound, who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food; who fulfills the desire of those who fear Him and hears their cry and saves them; we speak praise to the LORD! Thank You for your inexpressible gift of grace that is generosity. Free us from worry and materialism so that we can better walk in your grace, abounding in every good work, giving cheerfully, testifying to our confession of the gospel, and resulting in the glory of your name. Help us seek first your kingdom. Amen.

Notes/Prayers

WEEK 12

QUICK NOTES

Financial Responsibility

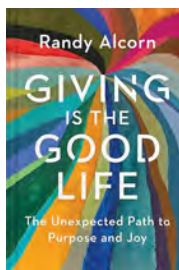
Two maxims underlie the Bible's principles of financial responsibility: (1) the earth and its resources belong to God (Lev. 25:23; Job 41:11; Pss. 24:1), and (2) they have been entrusted to people to use wisely (Gen. 1:29–30; 9:1–4). The overall message of the Bible regarding finances is one of personal thrift combined with generosity toward others. The Bible places a high value on saving money to provide for oneself and others in times of need (Luke 12:16–21; 1 Cor. 16:2). Because God blesses those who give to others, the willingness to give generously and without thought of return is considered a mark of financial responsibility. Those who save to provide only for themselves, or are unable to save because of extravagant spending, are held to be foolish (Prov. 21:20).

Paul H. Wright, "Financial Responsibility," ed. Chad Brand et al., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 575.

Giving Resources

We don't want your spiritual journey in generosity to stop here. If God has begun to prick your heart, take another step, possibly through one of these resources. Continue to grow in the grace of giving.

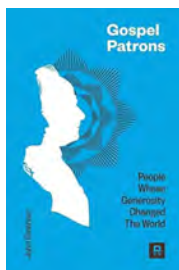
PRINCIPLES & THEOLOGY OF GIVING



Giving Is the Good Life by Randy Alcorn

This book teaches life-changing biblical principles of generosity and tells stories of people who have put those radical principles into practice. Each story is a practical application that can help stimulate your imagination and expand your dreams of serving Jesus in fresh ways.

FOCUSED GENEROSITY



Gospel Patrons by John Rinehart

Behind great movements of God stand a few generous men and women called Gospel Patrons. This book tells stories from history about business leaders who were behind the scenes fueling amazing works of God. *Gospel Patrons* is an invitation to believe that God is not done writing history and he's prepared a part for you to play.

GROUP EXPERIENCE



Giving Together by John Rinehart

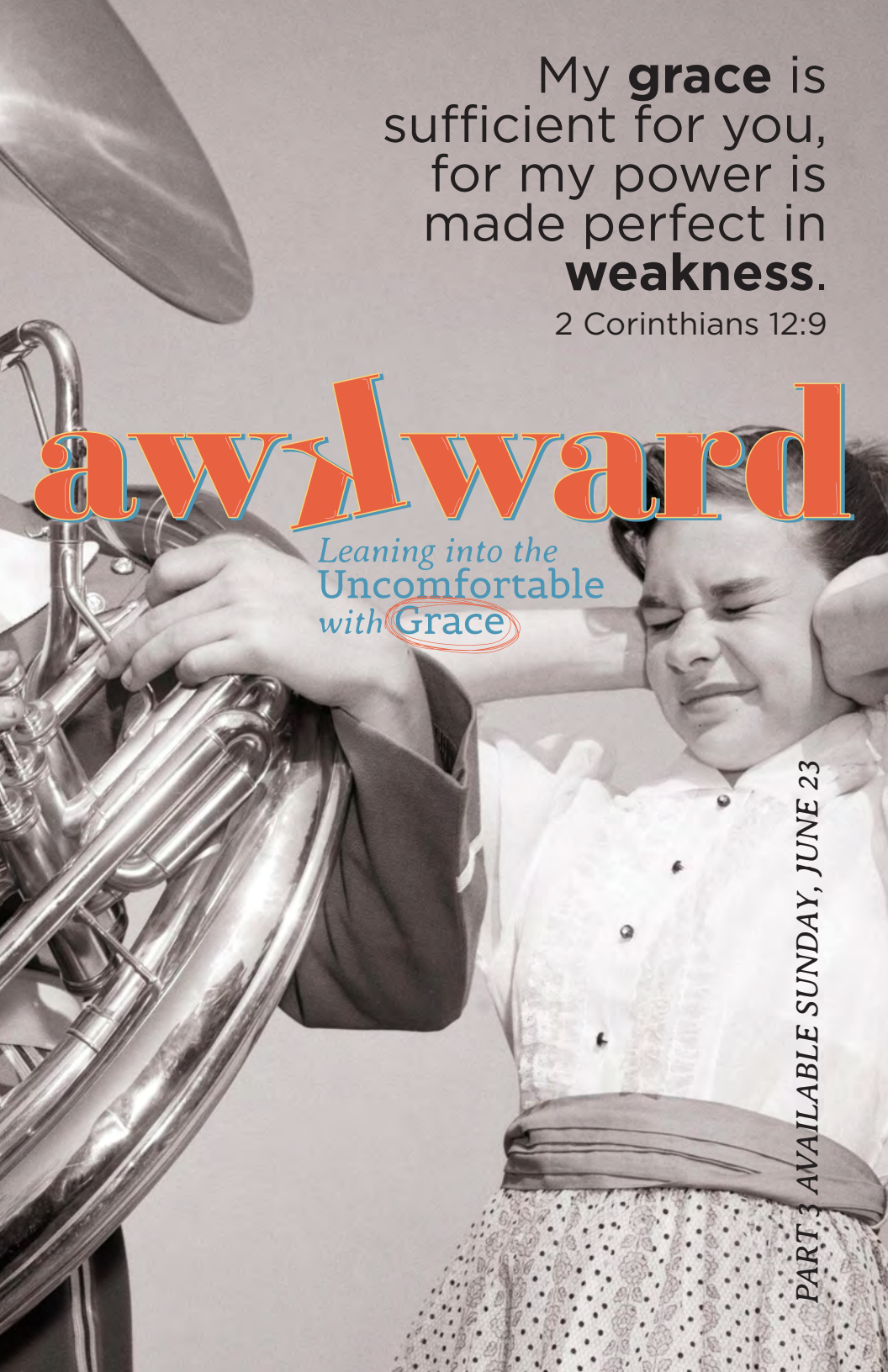
Giving Together is a book of action. It is about taking your next steps to grow in generosity that changes you and changes the world. This book has been designed as an experience for you to go through with others. Every chapter will have an activity you can do along with your family, friends, or small group.

ONLINE RESOURCES



Crown.org

Crown focuses on providing experienced wisdom, proven resources, and timeless biblical truth on the topic of money and identity to the rich, poor, and everyone in between. Discover budget tools, financial classes, coaches, and more.



My **grace** is
sufficient for you,
for my power is
made perfect in
weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9

awkward

*Leaning into the
Uncomfortable
with **Grace***

PART 3 AVAILABLE SUNDAY, JUNE 23



A **GROWTH GROUPS** RESOURCE
southshores.org/growthgroups

32712 Crown Valley Pkwy
Dana Point, CA 92629
949.496.9331