



# COMMUNITY Groups

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017: GREATER THAN LOVE**

## **OPENING**

What did you think of this week's message? What stood out to you? What challenged you?

## **DISCUSS & APPLY**

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

In this passage, Paul is asking the Christians in Corinth (southern Greece) to join the Macedonians (northern Greece) in helping starving Christians in Jerusalem (where there's a famine). What is interesting and strange about the way Paul describes the Macedonians?

- How can you be extremely poor and abundantly joyful at the same time?
  - What role does the grace of God play?
  - How would that combination lead to radical generosity?
- Why did the Macedonians give "beyond their ability"? What do you think that would look like in your life?
- Eric said, "Generosity is sacrificial." What have you given up to be generous? What could you sacrifice to be generous?
- What does giving yourself to the Lord and to his people have to do with generosity?
- Eric said, "Everyone wants to be generous." Do you think this is true? If so, why is generosity something most people struggle with?
  - How can God's grace help us to be more generous?

Read Acts 20:32-35

These words are the final words that Paul will ever exchange with the elders of the Ephesian church. Why do you think Paul would conclude his farewell speech in this way?

- According to this passage, why is it important to work hard?
  - How is that reason different from the American Dream?
- Jesus said, "It's more blessed to give than to receive." What do you think that means? Why would Paul emphasize this as an important phrase to remember?

## **FINAL APPLICATION**

Paul set an example for the Ephesian elders. Who are you setting an example for? What kind of example are you setting? What would you change?



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## PRAY

Lead your Community Group in praying silently and individually by intermittently giving the following invitations:

1. “Apologize for holding on so strongly to the gifts he has given us. Ask for more grace to be more like him: a generous and loving giver.”
2. “Ask, What do you want me to sacrifice in order to be more generous? What would I be happier giving than receiving?”
3. “Ask, Is there any person or group specifically that you want me to be more generous towards?”

Conclude with “Lord, thank you for loving us so much that you gave us your Son. Please give us the faith and the joy to use the things we have to help those around us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”