

MESSAGE NOTES: 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

4 Reasons to be Generous

1. Be Generous because it matters (v.1-5)

"For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action."
(2 Corinthians 9:2)

"So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given."
(2 Corinthians 9:5)

2. Be Generous because it is prudent (v.6-11)

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: 'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.' Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." (Luke 16:10)

3. Be Generous because it is fun (v.9)

"As it is written: 'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.'"
(2 Corinthians 9:9)

4. Be Generous because it brings alignment (v.12-15)

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness." (2 Corinthians 9:10)

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15)

STUDY GUIDE:

STEP ONE: Icebreaker (Optional):

- What is the most memorable gift you remember receiving as a kid?

STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture reading

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **2 Corinthians 9:1-15**.

STEP THREE: Discuss Questions

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. Read verses 1-5 again. What descriptive words jump out to you and why do you think Paul uses such words?
3. How would you describe the difference between "Generous" and "Grudgingly" and why should a Christian be more generous?
4. Read verses 6-11 again. What descriptive words jump out at you this time? What do we learn about God from some of these descriptive words?
5. Looking at verses 12-15, what are some of the results of generous Christian givers? How have you experienced some of these results in your life?
6. Giving or generosity, according to Paul in this text, is both good for believers and promotes God's glory. How do these two things work together?
7. How does embracing the gospel message help people "Look Up" and become more generous with all that God has blessed them with? What about you?

STEP FOUR: Prayer

- Close in prayer and pray specifically for each other over the holidays to share the gospel with someone over the next few weeks!