



Discussion Guide — 11/16/2025

Series: *Flow | Finding Our Groove With God*

Message: *Flow Through*

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (NRSVUE)

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, You are the Giver of every good gift. By Your Spirit, let grace flow into us and through us. Form our minds, soften our hearts, and guide our steps toward generous love. In Jesus' name, amen.

Introduction & Context

Last week we focused on grace “flowing in”—God’s unearned generosity toward us in Christ. This week we follow that current “through” us. In 2 Corinthians 8:1–7, Paul points to the churches of Macedonia, who in the middle of affliction and poverty overflowed with joy and generosity. Paul’s aim isn’t fundraising tactics; it’s formation—helping the Corinthians (and us) fix our eyes on Jesus and grow into a cruciform (self-giving) life where grace moves from reception to participation.

Read the Text

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1–7 aloud (once by a single reader, then again by multiple voices). Invite brief observations: a word or phrase that stands out.



Discussion

1) Grace In → Joy → Overflow (vv.1–2)

1. Paul says the Macedonians were experiencing “a severe ordeal of affliction” and “extreme poverty,” yet they overflowed in generosity. What does this teach us about the source of Christian generosity?
2. Where have you seen “grace-math” in real life—moments when hardship did not cancel generosity, but refined it?
3. How might gratitude and joy practically “prime the pump” for generosity in your week?

2) “They gave themselves first to the Lord” (v.5)

1. Why is this line the hinge of the passage? How does surrender (Lordship) reshape how we view time, money, and presence?
2. Where do you sense God inviting you to a first-to-the-Lord step (calendar, budget, attention, relationships)?
3. What practices help you keep Jesus—not image, status, or pressure—at the center of your giving?

3) Excelling in This Too (v.7)

1. The Corinthians excelled in faith, speech, knowledge, and zeal. Where does our church already “excel,” and how could generosity catch up with those strengths?
2. What keeps generosity from flowing through us (fear, scarcity, comparison, busyness)? Which of these shows up most for you?
3. Paul frames generosity as “the favor of partnering.” How does shifting from pressure to partnership change your motivation?

Scripture Connections

- **2 Corinthians 8:9** — “Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor...” Jesus is the pattern and power for generous living.
- **Mark 10:45** — The Son of Man came to serve and give His life; generosity is Christ-shaped service.



- **Acts 2:42–47** — Early church hospitality as a Spirit-formed habit, not a special event.
 - **Matthew 6:19–24** — Treasure, heart, and vision: where we invest shapes what we love.
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Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, You became poor so that we might become rich in Your grace. Take what we have and who we are; let Your love flow through us to those who need hope, help, and a holy reminder of Your presence. Amen.

Key Takeaway

Christian generosity doesn't start with capacity; it starts with surrender. When we give ourselves first to the Lord, grace flows from joy into open-handed love.

Practice: P.A.R. (Pray • Act • Reflect)

Pray

“Jesus, I give myself first to You. Where do You want Your grace to flow through me this week—through my time, my money, or my presence? Bring one person, one need, or one ministry to mind.”

(Sit in silence for a full minute; write what surfaces.)

Act

Do the one thing the Spirit highlighted. If financial, complete and return your Estimate of Giving as a worship response. If time or presence, put it on the calendar today—a call, a visit, a meal, a commitment to serve.

Reflect

At week's end ask: Where did I sense joy as I responded? How did grace move—into me, through me, and toward someone else? What rhythm of generosity will I carry forward?

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