



### Sermon Discussion Guide

01.15.23 Message | Tyler Myers | 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

#### Key Scriptures:

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

*I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. 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. And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”*

- 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

#### Message Highlights:

- Everybody wants to do something that eternally matters; God gives us the invitation for that through generosity.
- Generosity is an invitation to partner with God to experience Eternity Now.
- The story of God is a story of unending generosity.
- Christ took on the debt we owed and couldn't pay so we could share in his glorious inheritance.



### **Conversation Starter:**

Have you ever been approached by a toddler who wants nothing more than to share their toy or snack with you? Talk about the beauty of the beginnings of a generous spirit that we see in the littlest people among us; how can we carry on that same spirit beyond our early childhood years?

### **Discuss the Message:**

1. Tyler talked about the concept of mirror moments turning into window moments, which speaks to the idea of looking beyond our human perspective and seeing our God-given potential. How can a body of believers practically come together to help each other turn a mirror moment into a window moment?
  - a. We can't see beyond our human perspective by our own strength. How does prayer specifically play a vital role in our ability to wisely see a situation from God's perspective?
2. The story of God is a story of unending generosity. Share with your group as many instances/stories in the Bible as you can think of that prove this to be true.
  - a. Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-7 and note how joy and grace play into generosity.
  - b. We must seek generosity just like we seek God's Word and prayer; have you ever thought of generosity as something that you need to seek out? Why or why not?
3. Everybody longs to be generous, but taking the next step in generosity can be challenging. Which area of your life, whether time, giftedness, resources or influence, can you stretch yourself in extending yourself generously in the next week?
  - a. We give as an extension of the grace that we receive from Christ, not in order to earn something from God. Why is it so important to have a clear understanding of the "why" behind our giving?
  - b. God desires a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:6-15); why is just the act of giving without a cheerful heart displeasing to God?

### **Pray:**

*Father God, out of the bounty of grace you extend to us, it is our joy to practice generosity as a church family. Would you help us to ever grow in our humility as we try our best to extend ourselves generously. When generosity feels anything but desirable, would you renew our heart, mind, soul and strength to reorient ourselves around the truth of your Word. We love you, and we thank you for loving us first. Amen.*