

**The Grace of Giving**  
**Generosity in Jeopardy**  
Growth Group Discussion  
2 Corinthians 8:16-24

**Opening Questions** (get everyone involved in discussion):

- Has conflict ever prevented you from doing something good? What happened and why?
- How do you think Conflict damages a church or relationships?

**1. Read 2 Cor. 8:16-24 then discuss the following.**

- *The context for this conversation is a collection that Paul is taking up to meet the financial needs of impoverished Christians in Jerusalem.*
- In 2 Corinthians 8:16-24 Paul takes great care in making sure the collection is done right. What can we learn from this principle?
- In verse 21, Paul says he wants to handle this collection in a way that honors the Lord and man.
- Why is it important that we honor the Lord with our giving?
  - How can you honor the Lord more with your time?
  - With your talents?
  - With your giving?
- Pastor Erik said that the reason it's important to honor God with our giving is because we are stewards. A steward is someone who manages the affairs for another.
  - Read Luke 16:1-13
  - What is the principle that Jesus is talking about in relation to stewardship?
  - How well are you stewarding God's things?
- Handling our resources is not only a reflection of our relationship with God, but it is also a sign of **sincere love for one another**.
  - How is the churches giving an expression of love for one another?
- Read 2 Corinthians 8:9 - Here we see the reason why we give: We have been given so much. Christ's giving is sacrificial. He gave everything. As Christians, our whole life is to be modeled after Christ, to the best of our ability.
  - What does it look like for you to give sacrificially of your time, talents, treasure?

**APPLICATION**

- What degree of responsibility do you feel for our church's financial well-being? Why?
- If you are not yet giving to our church's ministries on a regular basis, what do you think is a reasonable, "proportionate" way for you to begin?
- What does it look like to be an even more faithful steward of your time, talents and treasure for the glory of God and love for one another?

**PRAYER:**

- Take time to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.

- Pray about the action steps that this study requires.