

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



HE DID. I WILL.



BETHLEHEM STORY

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WEEK 1

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5

EXAMINE

1. The Macedonian churches went through severe trials and affliction, yet Scripture says, "Their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part." Have you ever experienced abundant joy and extreme poverty at the same time? How can that be possible?

2. What do you think Paul means by saying, "They gave themselves first of all to the Lord"?

3. In this letter to the Corinthians, Paul uses the compelling model of the Macedonian churches and their faith to influence others in generosity. Who has influenced you in the area of biblical generosity?

4. As you steward your life, how do you influence others? Who is being impacted by your actions and demonstrations of your faith?

PRAY *(talk and listen to God)*

Lord, I am grateful for Your love and how You showed it by giving us Your best. Thank you for Jesus. I desire to give You my best and surrender every part of my life today, this week, this year, and for the rest of my life. Give me courage and faith to put You first. I ask for clarity on how You want me to be an active part of this next chapter. - Amen.

READING PLAN

- Monday: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- Tuesday: 1 John 4:7-19
- Wednesday: Colossians 1:3-23
- Thursday: John 1:1-14
- Friday: Proverbs 3:1-20
- Saturday: Galatians 2:15-21



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READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:8-9, 12-15

EXAMINE

1. Paul challenges the Corinthians to give from what they have instead of focusing on what they do not have. Do you give in a way that places Christ first in all things? Does your giving affect your saving and spending decisions, or do your saving and spending decisions affect your giving?

2. What is an appropriate response to what Jesus gave up for us? Have you made choices in the past regarding your lifestyle and resources that impact your ability to love and honor God in the present? What might God be asking you to do about it?

3. Paul uses the word “fairness” in this passage. How do you feel about that word? Sometimes we fear being taken advantage of if we share what we have with others. Paul insists that we are not to make life easy for others yet difficult for ourselves. In light of this passage, how can we view fairness in a Kingdom light?

4. The Macedonians’ story is inspiring. Have you ever shared your giving story with others? Would you share it now? Could your story be an inspiration to help others on their journey? How might God use your strengths and struggles in this area for His glory?

PRAY *(talk and listen to God)*

Lord, thank you for all the ways You have blessed me. Help me to recognize all of the ways You have provided for me. I realize that You own it all, and You have allowed me to steward these gifts from You. Please help me trust You more than I trust in what You have provided me. Lead me to follow You with an open heart and open hands. - Amen.

READING PLAN

- Monday: 2 Corinthians 8:8-9, 12-15
- Tuesday: Luke 11:24-36
- Wednesday: Luke 21:1-4
- Thursday: Matthew 6:19-24
- Friday: 2 Corinthians 4:7-18
- Saturday: Proverbs 11:24-31



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📖 READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-23

EXAMINE

1. According to this passage, what are the responsibilities of the leaders to the church? What is the church's responsibility to our community and the world? How does Bethlehem Church fulfill this?

2. Read Matthew 28:19-20. This is known as the Great Commission given to the disciples by Jesus. How does giving through the church, not to the church, help us go and "make disciples of all nations"?

3. We have been given the good news of the Gospel, the saving message of Jesus Christ. This is the best news, and we want the world to know it. How does our generosity help fulfill this?

4. What is the "act of grace" that Paul talks about in verse 19? (See also verses 6-7 from Week 1.) Jesus led the way in generosity. He gave Himself for us. Our generosity then is a response to God's grace to us. What does this look like practically in our lives?

PRAY *(talk and listen to God)*

Lord, You have led me to be a part of this church, and I am grateful for that. Lead me now and give me wisdom to know how to best serve Your body and generations to come. I am thankful for salvation and how You continue to work in my life. Continue to change and grow me into the person You created me to be. - Amen.

READING PLAN

- Monday: 2 Corinthians 8:16-23
- Tuesday: 1 Peter 4:7-10
- Wednesday: Matthew 28:16-20
- Thursday: Colossians 3:12-17
- Friday: Acts 2:42-47
- Saturday: Ephesians 2:11-22



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📖 READ 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-9

EXAMINE

1. Paul shares about reaping and sowing in chapter 9. What is your first response to this passage?

2. Notice the order in this passage. Paul attaches God's provision to a person's generosity. Those who sow generously will reap generously. We often think it's the other way around: We will become generous if and when we have more to give. It seems counterintuitive, but that's usually how the Kingdom works. Give an example of how you have seen this principle at work in your own life.

3. How is sowing generously or sparingly a matter of the heart? Have you ever given reluctantly or under compulsion?

4. How does one arrive at being a cheerful giver, sowing generously, and seeing God provide abundantly?

PRAY *(talk and listen to God)*

Lord, thank you for what You have done in my life over the last weeks. Thank You for the joy and privilege of participating in the work that You are already doing. Give me clarity on my next step of obedience when it comes to generosity, and help me to make sure that You are the priority of my life. - Amen.

READING PLAN

- Monday: 2 Corinthians 9:6-9
- Tuesday: 1 Timothy 6:6-8
- Wednesday: Philippians 4:10-20
- Thursday: Acts 4:23-47
- Friday: Matthew 16:13-26
- Saturday: Galatians 6:1-10



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📖 READ EPHESIANS 3:7-21

EXAMINE

1. Why do you think Paul considered himself “the very least of all the saints” in verse 8? Have you ever considered yourself this way?

2. How is it possible that we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence?

3. How does an awareness of God's faithfulness and provision for us cause us to live our lives in response?

4. According to verse 20, God can do much more than we can ask, think, or even imagine! Do your prayers reflect this truth? Why or why not?

PRAY *(talk and listen to God)*

Lord, I know that You can do far more abundantly than all I could ask or think, so please help me to trust You completely with all that I have – because it is all Yours to begin with. Help me to use the gifts and talents that You have given me to serve Your body well. – Amen

READING PLAN

- Monday: Ephesians 3:7-21
- Tuesday: 1 Kings 17:8-16
- Wednesday: Matthew 14:13-21
- Thursday: Luke 5:1-11
- Friday: Matthew 14:22-33
- Saturday: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-28