

## LifeGroup Discussion | Living Generously | Week of 11/17

**Main Passage:** 2 Corinthians 8:1–9

**Supporting Passages:** Mark 10:17–23

**Main Idea/Question:** What does it look like to live generously in a world that has me-centered focus?

**Culture Code Emphasis:** Presence Over Preference

### **Before LifeGroup**

- Review your LifeGroup Values.
- Ask yourself—"Which of these on-ramps (PORCH TALK, LIVING ROOM, AFTER GLOW) best reflects our values and the needs of our group this week?"
- Then start your discussion in that section. Week to week may change what section you resource for your meeting.

### **On-Ramps**

- **Porch Talk**—*use these questions over food or casual interactions. Feel free to make them more personable based on the contents of the sermon being discussed.*
- **Living Room**—*use these questions in an environment when your group is 'all in' and had the opportunity to attend or listen to the sermon prior to LifeGroup.*
- **After Glow**—*use this section if your group wants to dig deeper or as follow-up email/text messages or conversations that come up after your time as a group.*

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**PORCH TALK**—*use these questions over food or casual interactions. Feel free to make them more personable based on the contents of the sermon being discussed.*

What did you hear on Sunday?

Did you learn anything new?

Do you have any questions or was there anything you didn't understand?

How can we take what we've discussed into our week?

How can I be praying or holding you accountable in response to what you heard?

### ***More Scriptures to Consider:***

*Luke 10:25–37; Philippians 2:19–30; Colossians 2:6–7; 2 Peter 1:5–8*

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**LIVING ROOM**—*use these questions in an environment when your group is ‘all in’ and had the opportunity to attend or listen to the sermon prior to LifeGroup.*

### Discussion

**To Know/To Share:** *Paul wrote 2 Corinthians after some turmoil had taken place between himself and the Corinthian believers. He loves them dearly—though he had to reprimand them—and he loves even more as he reminds them that generosity is a part of the Christian life.*

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 8:1–5

**Say:** The Macedonians were believers (mostly Gentile) from surrounding areas who were giving to the poverty-stricken Jewish Christians living in Jerusalem during a famine. Although they didn’t have much, they gave what they had and even more.

**Ask:** Do you typically give from a place of sacrifice or comfort?

**Follow-Up:** What do you think it would look like to give sacrificially instead of from a reasonable budget?

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 8:6–7

**Say:** Paul praises them for their faith, speech, and knowledge in Christ—which all point to a life transformed by the gospel. He then challenges them to excel also in their generosity.

**Ask:** In a culture where knowledge and education are prized over pretty much anything else, what would it look like to aspire to be as generous as you are educated?

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 8:8–9

**Say:** Though Paul does not write a *command* that they should give, he is comparing their giving to those who gave more sacrificially. He then provides the ultimate example of giving that came through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. In other words, looking more like Jesus involves radical generosity.

**Ask:** Have you ever considered that your generosity (be it time, resources, or expertise) is a tangible example to an onlooking world of Christ’s generosity?

### Application

**Say:** Sometimes it’s easier to talk about Jesus than to give. Sometimes it’s easier to write a check than to go. Sometimes it’s easier to go than to stay. However, we find ourselves challenged today, may presence win out over preference. May we make ourselves poor in Christ so that others might experience the richness of salvation.

### Close in Prayer

**Sample:** Father, we thank You that You sent your Son—who became poor—for our sake. May we practice radical generosity in our words, our actions, the way we spend our time, and in the way we share our resources. Amen

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**AFTER GLOW**—*use this section if your group wants to dig deeper or as follow-up email/text messages or conversations that come up after your time as a group.*

**Say:** One of our culture codes is *Presence Over Preference*. Though we might not immediately think of generosity as being present regardless of our preferences, giving is an act of rebellion toward the self.

**Ask:** When it comes to giving within the context of church, is it easier to give your time, your resources, or your abilities? Why do you think this is true?

**Read:** Mark 10:17–23

**Say:** This man came to Jesus for a pat on the back. Instead, Jesus pointed out the “one thing” he lacked. He valued his possessions more than following Christ.

**Ask:** If you were honest with yourself, what is the “one thing” that often creates a tension between the life you live and the faith you profess?

**Say:** In their commentary of 2 Corinthians, the Bible Project writes, “The cross challenges our values and the way we see the world. Most societies value success, education, and wealth but God values humility, weakness, and service.”

**Ask:** Between humility, weakness, and service, which do you think comes the easiest? Which is the hardest?

**Follow-Up:** How can we pray for you this week as you aim to live generously?

**Further Reflection:** Listen/watch one of the following:

- Watch this **Bible Project Video** about “Generosity.”  
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/generosity/>
- Listen to the latest **But Wait! There’s More Episode** about the Uganda Mission Trip (S.5 Ep. 7), <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/but-wait-theres-more/id1520406040?i=1000676633228>

**Thoughts to Chew On:**

- “To be a Christian is to let this story sink deep into your heart and mind, letting it transform you into someone who is more generous and more willing to share your life and resources to help others.” —The Bible Project
- “I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.” —C.S. Lewis

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