

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012

Passage: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Memory Passage: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Cor. 8:1-9:5.** These verses comprise the setting for our text this week. I preached on 8:1-5 in January of 2011 with this proposition statement: “Paul gives 7 characteristics that will mark our giving when it is motivated by the grace of God.” I pulled the first characteristic, “Regular,” from 1 Cor. 16:2 because Paul said they gave on the first day of the week. Study 8:1-5 and write down the remaining 6 characteristics you see.

(b) From reading chapter 8, do you think the Corinthians are willing and ready to give or are they hesitating? Why do you think this? Why should they give to this offering (8:8-10)? Why does Paul say, “I say this not as a command” in v. 8 and, “I give my judgment” in v. 10? What objection might some people in Corinth be making given Paul’s comments in 8:11-14?

(c) Why is Titus commended, and what is his job (along with other men) with relation to this offering (8:16-23)? What is Paul trying to avoid (9:1-5)?

(d) Are you ever reluctant to give to the church? Are you one who knows they *should* give, and even promises in your heart that you *will* give, but somehow never finishes in obedience in this area? Our study of these verses should give you encouragement to be a faithful, cheerful giver and an enjoyer of the blessings God promises when you give like this!

(e) *Family:* Summarize the setting (Paul is writing to the Corinthians and asking them to keep the promise they made a year ago to give to the offering being taken up for the saints in Jerusalem. The Corinthians have been negligent in collecting this gift, so Paul is sending Titus and other men in order to motivate them to give so they will not embarrass either themselves or Paul.) and then **Read 2 Cor. 9:6.** If necessary, explain what “sowing” and “reaping” mean, and explain that this does not mean that if we “give a dollar to Jesus He will give more dollars back to us.” Explain that God blesses the giver whose heart is turned toward others in generosity. Explain that this week we will look at principles that will teach us to be cheerful givers.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Cor. 9:6-15 & Luke 6:38.** Why does Paul begin v. 6 with, “the point is this?” To what do “sowing” and “reaping” refer? What is the relationship between sowing & reaping? Why is this “the point” Paul makes to the Corinthians?

(b) Look at the context of Luke 6:38 (esp. vs. 27-37). To what type of giving does v. 38 refer? What kind of response does God promise to someone who gives with good measure to others? Does this verse, along with 1 Cor. 9:6, promise that God is duty-bound to give to you more dollars than you give to others, or to give to you 2 cars if you give one away (or any other of a multitude of examples)? Why or why not? What other passages of Scripture can you think of to back up your answer?

(c) As you read through 9:6-15, what reasons do you find for God giving bountifully to those who sow bountifully? What ways have you experienced this principle of increase with regard to your giving? Be ready to share these testimonies (both when you have sown sparingly and when you have sown bountifully) with your class in order to encourage others.

(d) *Family:* Have a bag of brown sugar, 2 bowls, and a measuring cup ready prior to your lesson. Begin by filling the cup without packing it down, and then pour it in a bowl. Then ask, “What would happen if I pressed the brown sugar into the cup?” (You would be able to put more into the measuring cup). Now fill the cup again, but this time tap it on the table and shake it and press it firmly into the cup, and then, after it is pressed down, pile brown sugar in a mound on top so it is spilling over the sides as you dump it into the other bowl. Compare the results. **Read Luke 6:38** and teach your family the way God meets the needs of those who obey His commands of giving their possessions to those who are in need.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Cor. 9:6-15.** How have you “decided in your own heart” (v. 7) to give to the Lord’s work? What standards have you used? What Scriptural principals have you employed? For what reasons might one give “reluctantly?” Are *you* a reluctant giver, and if so, why? How can a person (you) move from giving reluctantly to giving cheerfully?

(b) For what reasons might one give “under compulsion” and why is this a bad thing? Do you give under compulsion, and if so, why do you feel this way as you give? How can a person (you) move from giving under compulsion to giving cheerfully?

(c) Be ready to discuss with your class ways in which you wisely decide how much, when, and to whom you will give of your resources. Use this time to encourage others in their giving practices and also for you to be encouraged by others.

(d) *Family:* Be ready to define “reluctant” and “under compulsion” so your family can fully apply v. 7. Make 3 columns on your white board: “Reluctantly,” “Under Compulsion,” and “Cheerfully.” Discuss the first 2 columns, writing down ways and reasons people might give reluctantly and under compulsion. Then discuss ways one might be a cheerful giver and counteract

the first 2 columns. Then ask, “Do these describe you and your willingness to give to the Lord’s work?” Your kids might not have much money, but they might have an allowance, or they probably get birthday & Christmas money, or change from their grandpa’s change drawer, etc. Use this time to instruct them how to handle the financial blessings they receive from God.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Cor. 9:6-15.** Take a moment to record all the things God does in light of our giving (vs. 8-15). Now rewrite them to be personal confessions of God’s promises. Here is one example from v. 8: “God will make all grace abound to me.” Now, in another list, write down all the things you will do according to these verses using the same form. An example from v. 8: “I will abound in every good work.”

(b) Circle every occurrence of the words “all” & “every” in vs. 8 & 11. What affect should these promises have on our complaining with regard to our own circumstances? How should the promise that you will have “all sufficiency in all things at all times” help us when we start to feel entitled or feel sorry for ourselves or feel that we are lacking something?

(c) For what purpose does Paul quote Ps. 112:9? How does it inform His argument? How does it help you understand the grounds for your giving? In v. 10, for what reason will God multiply your seed? What is the “harvest of your righteousness” that will increase?

(d) *Family:* Lead your family through (a) & (b) above. Have everyone make their own lists on 3x5 cards to place in prominent areas (bathroom mirrors, doors to their rooms, Bible covers, etc.) so they are regularly reminded of these promises.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Cor. 9:6-15.** What will giving in these ways produce in yourselves and the people to whom you give, and why is this important? How will the Corinthians’ giving reflect their “submission flowing from (their) confession of the gospel of Christ?” How will *your* giving according to these principles cause those to whom you give to glorify God because of *your* submission that flows from *your* confession of the gospel?

(b) For what inexpressible gift does Paul thank God (v. 15, cf. 8:9)? Are all of the promises in these verses referring to physical blessings, spiritual blessings, or both? How do you know, and why is your answer important as you apply this text?

(c) Re-read 2 Cor. 8:1-5 and 2 Cor. 9:6-15, praying and asking God to reveal both the truth of His word and the truth of the state of your heart. Now spend some time contemplating and answering the following questions: (1) Do I give to the church? (2) If I do give, how can I grow in my obedience to these Scriptures and give regularly, unconditionally, proportionally (i.e. according to my ability), sacrificially, voluntarily, enthusiastically, secondarily (i.e. after giving myself), bountifully, & cheerfully? (3) If I don’t currently give, why don’t I give, and how can I move toward obedience to God’s word (see question 2) in my giving practices?

(d) *Family:* Hallelujah! You have now memorized all of Romans 8! Spend tonight joyfully reciting the entire chapter. You can do it in sections, in its entirety, individually, as a group, verse-by-verse with each person taking 1 or 2 verses, or a myriad of other ways. Rejoice at the provision of God’s word to your family and the fruit that will come from memorizing together!

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Thanksgiving Giving

In 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Paul reveals to us five principles that help us to avoid covetousness (v. 5) and give generously.