



small groups

Discussion Guide



Motivated By God's Gifts

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Ice Breaker

(5 minutes)

Discuss

- This week's lesson was about generosity and gift-giving. Try to remember the best Christmas gift you ever received as a kid. Why was it special to you?
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Lesson Review

(45 minutes)

Discuss

- After Jay's lesson last week, did you practice five minutes of silence per day this week? How did it go?

The scripture reading this Sunday was from Paul's second letter to the church at Corinth, but it included a quotation from one of the Psalms.

Read 2 Cor. 9:8-11 and Psalm 112

Discuss

- The psalmist wrote that the righteous "scatter" their gifts rather than "giving," "offering," or "giving." What does the word "scattered" imply in these verses?
- Psalm 112 is an acrostic poem; its lines begin with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Read through them again and find every line that describes the actions of the righteous. In other words, separate what the righteous do from the results of what they do.

Craig outlined five kinds of resources that he called "currencies."

- **Emotional Space** – Sharing your privacy. Sharing you heart.
- **Physical Space** – Hospitality. Welcoming people.
- **Time** – This may be the most scarce resource in modern life.
- **Commitment** – Here, Craig used the example of sex outside of marriage.
- **Wealth** – Money or valuable things.

Discuss

- Which of these is hardest for you to give away? Why?

Next, Craig described three categories of God's generosity that we receive every day.

- **Common Grace** – Pieces of the world God created and called "good," both visible and invisible – **Read Psalm 145:9 and Matt. 5:43-45**
- **Personal Provision** – Every good and healthy thing in your life – **Read James 1:17**
- **Ultimate Generosity** – Salvation, redemption, restoration, communion – **Read John 3:16 and Romans 5:8**

Discuss

- Try to imagine if God left out one of those three kinds of grace. What if he created a good world, but then gave up on it after Genesis 3? What if the blessings of beauty and light, air and rain, were only available to the righteous? What if God provided a savior for a good world, but had no interest in day-to-day blessings in individual lives? How would that change your view of God?

Craig said the only appropriate response to receiving so much generosity is to share it with others.

- We have to share this story with our words.
- We have to share this story with our wealth.

Craig listed eight lessons from business guru Ari Weinzweig.

- **Program your giving** – make a plan to be generous
 - **Remember that kindness is free** – make someone's day
 - **Be an active listener** – attention is scarce and listening is gift
 - **Give people the benefit of the doubt** – assume about others as you would have them assume about you
 - **Let everyone win** – refuse to get ahead at another's expense
 - **Give your time** – we are most generous when we give our most precious resource
 - **Share the credit** – lift others up
 - **Think abundantly** – Jesus never operated out of fear or scarcity
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Application

(10 minutes)

Craig said, "My challenge for you this week is to just choose one or two of these and really put them to work in your life this week."

Discuss

- Which of the eight lessons above can you practice this week? How will you do it?