



Sermon Discussion Guide

As the discussion leader, there are a few things to keep in mind for your Life Group:

- Pray for your group discussion time!
- Review your notes from the Sunday sermon and read over the text being discussed prior to your group meeting.
- Choose a few questions from the guide which you feel will generate the most discussion in your group. For questions with multiple parts, find an answer to the first part before you read the next part to the group. These types of questions are designed to build on the answer of the previous part before moving on.

Getting to Know Me:

- What was best movie you have seen recently? What is the best book you've read recently?
- What is the best gift you have ever been given? What is the worst?
- What was the most significant thing you learned from the message today?

Text: 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Discussion Questions:

1. Paul wrote to the people of Corinth, "It was your enthusiasm that stirred up many of the Macedonian believers to begin giving" (v.2 NLT). Who is someone who has inspired you as you have watched them live out their faith? What is the one thing you learned from them? How can you become that to someone else?
2. In v.5 Paul said that he wanted the gift to be a "willing gift, not one given grudgingly" (v.5 NLT). Why do you think Paul emphasized that the gift be given willingly? For you personally, is giving something which comes naturally or something you have to work at? What are some ways we can develop a good attitude in our giving?
3. In this passage Paul said he sent some people ahead of him to make sure the gift they "promised" was ready (v.5 NLT). Have you ever made a faith promise pledge but found it hard to fulfill? Explain. What did you learn from that situation? Why is it so critical we deliver on what we have promised?
4. Read v.6 and Galatians 6:7-8. How have you seen the principle of the harvest play out in your life in finances and other areas? Knowing this to be true, why is it still hard for most people to give generously of their time, ability, and resources? For you personally, what has been the hardest thing to give fully to God?
5. In v.7 Paul wrote that "God loves a person who gives cheerfully" (NLT). What is the difference between giving out of thanks and giving to receive God's blessings? Will God still bless a person who gives only to receive the blessing of giving? Explain.
6. When encouraging the Corinthians in giving, Paul wrote in v.8, "God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others" (NLT). Tell of a time when you were in need and others helped you out. Has there ever been a time when you gave to help someone less fortunate? How can we promote the culture of equality which Paul describes in these verses?
7. Read vv.10-11 and Matt. 25:19-29. In what way is giving a test of our faithfulness? How does this apply to more than money? What talent, ability, and/or resource do you feel God has given you to be used for his kingdom?
8. Read vv.11-12 and 2 Cor. 8:9. How did Christ serve as a model for us to follow in our giving? What are the characteristics of a generous life style? Of those characteristics you listed, where do you need to grow the most?
9. Read vv.13-15. How does generosity promote unity in the church? Why is unity so important in the body of Christ? What are some things you can do to promote unity in your Life Group and in our church?