



# IMMANUEL CHURCH

**Conversation Starter:** Trust the Give  
**August 20, 2017**

**Opening Questions:**

- Name something someone else in your life does better than you. Does admitting that sting—even a little? Why do you think we can struggle to admit someone else is better suited to do something or manage something than we are?
- When it comes to finances, do you really believe God can do more with our money than we can? What is it about money that makes it so difficult to unreservedly trust God with it? Why is it hard to see him as better suited to manage it than us?

**Looking at Scripture:**

- Read **2 Corinthians 9:6-15...** Why would Paul use an agricultural analogy to explain the benefit of giving our money over to God? Are there other examples/metaphors you can think of that illustrate the same point? What else offers that sort of linear relationship?
- Why would God love a cheerful giver? Doesn't he just want an obedient giver? Why focus so much on the attitude and not the action? Why does he want us to *want* to give?
- Self-sufficiency continues to be a high value in our society; it didn't disappear with the philosophers of the first century. Do you see yourself as carrying that value subconsciously? How do we go about being content with what we've been provided through God's grace?
- Paul explains that our generosity acts as a needs meeter, a gratitude generator and an evangelism mechanism. How do you see it fulfilling each of those roles in your own life? Have you experienced those things through your own generosity?

**Application Questions:**

- This week's bottom line was **GOD CAN DO WAY MORE WITH OUR MONEY THAN WE CAN IMAGINE TO DO WITH IT OURSELVES.** What can you imagine doing with your money? And what might God be able to do beyond that? Do you think our imagination and financial goals are always necessarily different from what God might do with it? How do we ensure the two are aligned?
- Josh called the generous life the "exemplary Gospel" which is different from the prosperity Gospel. What's the difference in your mind? How do you plan to ensure you don't slip into giving for the sake of getting something in return?

*End your time together asking God to help you live with eagerness to give. Ask him to be showing each of you opportunities throughout the week ahead to "sow more seed." Ask him to make those opportunities obvious and the giver courageous.*