

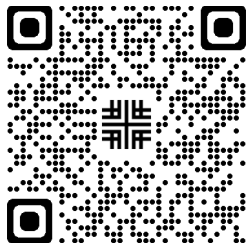


guide:

- CHECK-INS: Introductions, check-in
- CARE: Needs in the group
- COMPASSION: What is the group planning? Are you inviting neighbours to join in?
- GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS Church-wide and group-only
- DIG IN: "Ice-breaker" question (group facilitator), discuss questions as a group
- PRAYER: Final questions, prayer huddles for personal requests. Consider breaking into small groups (huddles) of 2-4, by gender, if large enough.

for reflection & discussion:

1. Who is the most generous person in your family? How do you describe generosity?
2. Read the passage.
3. Paul uses the power of example in the Macedonians. How do you think using examples of others can work well? How is it discouraging?
4. Generally speaking, the wealthy give less per capita than moderate to lower income people. In the story of the widow's mite, Jesus praises her for giving. Talk about the idea of regressive versus progressive giving. What do you think about it?
5. In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul uses all kinds of language to talk about money without actually using the word for money. What do you think this says about their cultural values and sensitivity around money? What do your/our values and sensitivity about money look like?
6. What do you think our church gets wrong and right about giving?



connect

- need prayer?
- ask questions
- get information
- make comments
- meet with pastor Shel or Josh
- sign-up for our weekly e-newsletter
- join a Home Church

SECOND
CORINTHIANS
SERIES

EXAMPLE^{OR} WARNING

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Who do you look up to as an example to follow in life? There are those who live with a spirit of abundance and those who do not understand the economy of grace. We are invited into a mindset of being a gifting, giving, gracious, greater people.

2 Corinthians 8:1-15, Proverbs 3:9,13

COMPLETING THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS

^{8:1} Now we make known to you, brothers and sisters, the grace of God given to the churches of Macedonia, ² that during a severe ordeal of suffering, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in the wealth of their generosity.

³ For I testify, they gave according to their means and beyond their means. They did so voluntarily, ⁴ begging us with great earnestness for the blessing and fellowship of helping the saints.

⁵ And they did this not just as we had hoped, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

⁶ Thus we urged Titus that, just as he had previously begun this work, so also he should complete this act of kindness for you.

⁷ But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, and in all eagerness and in the love from us that is in you—make sure that you excel in this act of kindness too.

⁸ I am not saying this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love by comparison with the eagerness of others.

⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, he became poor for your sakes, so that you by his poverty could become rich.

¹⁰ So here is my opinion on this matter: It is to your advantage, since you made a good start last year both in your giving and your desire to give, ¹¹ to finish what you started, so that just as you wanted to do it eagerly, you can also complete it according to your means.

¹² For if the eagerness is present, the gift itself is acceptable according to whatever one has, not according to what he does not have. ¹³ For I do not say this so there would be relief for others and suffering for you, but as a matter of equality.

¹⁴ At the present time, your abundance will meet their need, so that one day their abundance may also meet your need, and thus there may be equality, ¹⁵ as it is written: ***“The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”***