

LIFEGROUPS - Facilitator Notes

Generosity: Part 4 – The Grace of giving.



Suggested icebreaker: Tell us of an incident where you have witnessed or experienced the act of someone else's gracious giving.

READ 2CORINTHIANS 8:1-15.

Paul teaches that giving is an act of Grace. In the text Paul uses nine different words to describe the offering for the Jerusalem church that was to be collected, but he uses the word *grace* the most.

Q) What is your definition of the act of Grace?

A) It is the work of the Holy Spirit in us that makes us more like Christ which is evidenced in some tangible way in our lives. For example, generously giving to meet a need.

Q) So how did the Macedonians evidence the grace of God in their lives? (Read verse 2).

A) By giving generously despite their circumstances of poverty and great affliction.

Paul teaches that giving is a sign of spiritual maturity in the believer and thus in the church.

READ 1CORINTHIANS 3:1-4.

Q) How much spiritual maturity or in other words Christ like transformation did the Corinthian church show?

A) Not very much.

The Corinthian church were strong in the spiritual gifts and probably had some financially well off members yet they hadn't given to the collection and missed what God had wanted for them- His Grace.

On the other hand the Macedonians who were poor materialistically were rich spiritually because they had God's grace evidenced by their generous giving.

Q) What are two evidences of God's grace in the Macedonian church? (Read verse 2).

A) They had joy in their affliction, (possibly religious persecution), and liberality in their giving through their poverty. That is what it means to have true liberty in Christ!

Remember, grace giving is the work of the Holy Spirit in us and through us to love Jesus, His church including His ministers who minister to us and His people who have special needs.

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Q) How can you show gracious giving to the church, a minister or someone who

has a need in your world? Ask the Lord to show you where you can be gracious in giving?