



Discussion Guide

For the week of April 26, 2026
This Act of Grace | 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:5

Miss this week's teaching? You can watch it at <https://youtu.be/vJmxWK4Y4ec>

Summary

Pastor Jason explores Paul's teaching on generous giving from 2 Corinthians 8 and the first part of 9, contrasting the Macedonian churches who gave sacrificially despite poverty with the Corinthian church who had good intentions but failed to follow through. He emphasizes that true generosity flows from a surrendered heart, not obligation, and is a response to Christ's ultimate sacrifice. He shares personal stories about both negative experiences with manipulative giving appeals and positive experiences of God's faithfulness during financial hardship. His message concludes that giving is an act of grace and worship, not a duty, and challenges us to examine whether our giving reflects the grace we've received from Jesus.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with grateful hearts, acknowledging all that You have done for us through Your Son Jesus Christ. As we gather together to study Your Word and discuss what it means to live generously, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be honest with ourselves and with each other as we explore what it means to give as an act of worship and an act of grace. Remove any barriers or distractions that might keep us from hearing Your voice clearly. We invite You Holy Spirit to guide our conversation and help us grow together as a community of believers. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one thing you've been meaning to do for a long time but keep putting off because life keeps getting in the way?

Key Verses

1. 2 Corinthians 8:1-2
2. 2 Corinthians 8:7
3. 2 Corinthians 8:9
4. 2 Corinthians 8:11-12
5. Luke 21:1-4
6. Malachi 3:10
7. Proverbs 3:5-10

Questions

- What stands out to you most about the contrast between the Macedonian churches and the Corinthian church in their approach to giving?
- Pastor Jason mentioned that 'generosity isn't what you do with your money as much as it's what God does with your heart.' What do you think this means?
- Paul describes giving as a 'grace' rather than a duty or obligation. How does this perspective change the way we might think about generosity?



Discussion Guide

For the week of April 26, 2026
This Act of Grace | 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:5

- The Macedonian churches 'first gave themselves to the Lord' before they gave financially. What does it look like practically to give yourself to the Lord first?
- How do you respond to Jesus' teaching about the widow's offering in Luke 21? What made her gift more valuable than the larger gifts of the wealthy?
- Pastor Jason shared about God's faithfulness during his family's financial struggles. Have you experienced God's provision in unexpected ways? How did that impact your faith?
- Paul emphasizes the importance of integrity and accountability in handling church finances. Why is this so crucial for the gospel's credibility?
- What are some 'good intentions' you've had that got lost in the busyness of life? How can we move from good intentions to actual follow-through in our spiritual lives?

Life Application

This week, take time to honestly evaluate your giving patterns and your heart attitude towards giving. Whether you currently give regularly or not, ask God to show you if your giving (or lack thereof) reflects the grace and mercy you've received from Him. Consider one specific step you can take to grow in generosity - whether that's starting to give, increasing your giving, or simply changing your heart attitude about giving. Remember, this isn't about the amount but about responding to God's grace with a surrendered heart.

Key Takeaways

- True generosity flows from a surrendered heart that has first given itself to the Lord, not from obligation or duty
- Giving is an act of grace and worship that reflects our response to Christ's ultimate sacrifice for us
- The integrity of church leaders in handling finances is inseparable from the credibility of the gospel message
- Good intentions without follow-through are not true generosity - we must move from desire to action
- God invites us to test His faithfulness through generous giving, as He promises to provide for our needs

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the ultimate example of generosity - giving up Your heavenly riches to become poor so that we might become rich in You. As we leave this time together, help us to examine our hearts honestly and respond to Your grace with lives of generous worship. Whether we're just beginning this journey of giving or have been walking in generosity for years, continue to transform our hearts to be more like Yours. Help us to trust You with our finances and our futures, knowing that You are faithful to provide for all our needs. May our giving be a reflection of the incredible gift we've received in salvation. Guide us as we seek to care for one another and reach our community with the good news of Your love. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.