LIFE GROUP PARTICIPANT GUIDE

A Generous Heart: The Marks of a Generous Heart

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Series:	Generosity
Date:	November 1, 2026
Text Reference:	2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Purpose of This Guide

This discussion is designed to help participants understand that genuine generosity is not primarily a financial issue but the fruit of a heart transformed by God's grace. Through the example of the Macedonian believers in 2 Corinthians 8:1–5, participants should consider how generosity reflects their trust in God and their joy in giving. Keep the emphasis on the heart behind generosity rather than simply financial amounts or commitments, recognizing the Legacy Project as an opportunity to put that devotion into practice.

Key Text — 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (ESV)

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, [2] for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. [3] For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, [4] begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— [5] and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

Part 1: Opening Questions

Getting the Group Thinking

1. **When you hear the word "generosity," what is the first thing that comes to mind? Has your understanding of generosity changed over time?**

2. **How does our giving reflect our faith in God, our love for His church, what we treasure, and where we place our trust?**

Part 2: Study Questions (Engaging the Text)

Engaging the Text

MARK I: GOD'S GRACE TRANSFORMS THE HEART FOR GENEROSITY (vv. 1-2)

3. **Paul establishes God's work of grace before highlighting the Macedonians' generosity. Why do you think he frames their generosity as a work of God's grace rather than simply a personal virtue or discipline?**

4. **The Macedonians gave generously in the middle of severe trials and extreme poverty. What does their example reveal about the relationship between our circumstances and our obedience to God?**

5. Why are we sometimes tempted to put obedience on hold until life becomes easier? Can you think of an area of your life where you have been waiting for better circumstances before taking a step of obedience?

MARK II: GRACE-FILLED GIVING RESPONDS TO GOD'S PROVISION WITH SACRIFICE (v. 3)

6. Paul affirms in 2 Corinthians 8:12 that God calls us to give from what we have, not from what we do not have. How does this shape the way we think about generosity and what we are able to give?

7. What is the difference between how much someone gives and how much they surrender? Why does that distinction matter when it comes to generosity?

8. Why do you think generosity can be one of the last areas of our lives to reflect genuine trust in God, even when we know and believe what Scripture teaches?

MARK III: GENUINE GENEROSITY SEES GIVING AS A PRIVILEGE (v. 4)

9. The Macedonians begged for the opportunity to give. What would need to change in your heart for you to genuinely view giving as a privilege rather than an obligation?

10. How does viewing the Legacy Project as an opportunity to participate in what God is doing, rather than simply a financial challenge, change the way you think about giving?

MARK IV: GENUINE GENEROSITY BEGINS WITH SURRENDER (v. 5)

11. The Macedonians gave themselves to the Lord before giving their resources. How would honestly answering the question "To whom do I belong?" instead of "How much should I give?" change the way you approach your finances?

12. Romans 12:1 calls believers to present themselves as living sacrifices. What does that kind of surrender look like in the everyday financial decisions we make?

Part 3: Application Questions

Living It Out

13. Which of these four marks of a generous heart do you find most difficult to put into practice? What do you think makes that particular area challenging?

14. Is there an area of generosity in your life where you have become less faithful or consistent over time? What would it look like to begin again?

Closing Prayer Guide

Lord, You are worthy of my whole heart, my whole life, and every act of worship.

I confess that I sometimes don't offer You my first and best, forgetting that all I have belongs to You.

Thank You for the biblical examples who gave themselves first to You and then joyfully to Your work.

Shape my heart so that devotion to You becomes the wellspring of every generous act. Grant me grace to give not out of pressure, but out of love, trust, and a desire to honor You in all things.