LIFE GROUP PARTICIPANT GUIDE

A Generous Heart: The Foundation of Generosity

2 Corinthians 8:1

Series:	Generosity
Date:	October 25, 2026
Text Reference:	2 Corinthians 8:1

Purpose of This Guide

This week's sermon launched a five-week series on generosity rooted in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. The pastor introduced the foundational truth that everything we have belongs to God and that we are managers, not owners, of what He has entrusted to us. Rather than framing generosity as a financial obligation, the sermon presented it as a spiritual journey toward joy, transformation, and a deeper relationship with Christ.

Key Text — 2 Corinthians 8:1 (ESV)

"We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,"

Part 1: Opening Questions

Getting the Group Thinking

1. When you were growing up, what was your household's general attitude toward money and giving? How has that shaped the way you think about generosity today?

2. What can make it difficult to be open with others about how we use our money?

Part 2: Study Questions (Engaging the Text)

Engaging the Text

SECTION A: OWNERSHIP AND STEWARDSHIP

3. Read Haggai 2:8 and Deuteronomy 8:18. How does it change the way you think about your finances when you consider that both your resources and your ability to earn them come from God?

4. If your boss handed you $10,000 of company money and asked you to use it wisely, you would likely handle it carefully, knowing you would have to give an account for how you used it. How consistently do you approach your own finances with that same sense of responsibility before God? What makes it harder to view money you've earned yourself in the same way?

5. Jesus said in Matthew 6:21 that where your treasure is, your heart will be also. What do you think your current financial habits reveal about where your heart is?

SECTION B: GENEROSITY AND JOY

6. Have you ever experienced genuine joy as a result of giving generously? What were the circumstances, and what did that experience teach you?

7. Where would you place yourself on the spectrum of giving as religious obligation vs. as an expression of grace in the heart? What do you think it would take to move toward the latter?

SECTION C: THE LOCAL CHURCH

8. The New Testament describes two primary purposes for giving: supporting those who minister the gospel and advancing the ministry of the church while caring for those in need. How have you seen both of those purposes play out in your own church experience?

9. How do you currently think about the balance between giving to your local church and giving to other organizations or causes? Has this sermon prompted any reconsideration?

SECTION D: SURRENDER AND THE HEART

10. Read 2 Corinthians 8:5. What does it look like practically to give yourself to the Lord before you give your money? How does that sequence change the act of giving?

11. Consider the prayer, "Lord, make me a truly generous person before you." What would need to change in your life for that prayer to become a genuine desire rather than just a polite request?

Part 3: Application Questions

Living It Out

12. On a scale of one to ten, how would you honestly rate the generosity of your heart right now, not just your giving habits but your actual posture toward money and resources?

13. Is there a specific area where you sense God may be calling you to grow in generosity during this series?

14. What is one concrete step you could take this week to begin aligning your finances more closely with the truth that everything you have belongs to God?

Closing Prayer Guide

- **You are God whose grace develops true generosity in Your people, just as You stirred the hearts of the Macedonians in their affliction.**
- **I confess that my heart often clings to comfort, security, and self-reliance rather than resting in Your sufficiency.**
- **Thank You that Your grace not only saves but also shapes my desires, freeing me from the grip of fear and scarcity.**
- **By Your Spirit, work in me a deeper trust in Your provision. Teach me to give as one who has first received abundantly from Christ, whose generosity toward me never runs dry.**