

life together

SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Main point from Sunday's sermon:

The extravagant grace of God, in Christ, makes us extravagantly generous! Now let's RECAP:

Re-Read

Re-read 2 Corinthians 8:1-24. As you do, highlight what you think are the key sentences or phrases. You'll come back to those as you evaluate the main point of the passage shortly.

Evaluate

Using the key statements, sentences, or phrases you highlighted, determine as a group what you think the big idea is.

The main points from Sunday's sermon were:

Live generously as a display of:

1. The grace of God (8:1-7)
2. The genuineness of your love (8:8-15)
3. The glory of Christ (8:16-24)

Spend a few minutes connecting the text and the main points. Where in the text do you see the above statements and points?

Citations from the Church

"With some Christians the last part of their nature that ever gets sanctified is their pockets," Charles Spurgeon.

Do you agree with this quote? Why or why not? What are some implications of this? Why do you think this is the case? What do you think are ways we can combat that in our lives?

"God is to be our treasure, and hence believers are to give generously and freely. For most believers in the West, that means giving more than a tithe," Thomas Schreiner.

Do you agree or disagree with him? Why or why not? Given current giving patterns and trends in the West, how do you think people would respond to the idea of giving more than ten percent of their income to God? How can that be changed?

Application or Advancing the Gospel

Why do you think the Bible has as much to say about money and possessions as it does (17/38 parables, 2,350 times in the Bible, twice as much as faith and prayer combined, 1:7vv in NT)?

In what ways do you see the extravagant grace of God resulting in extravagant, even radical responses of generosity in our lives? Or if you don't, why?

Why do you think Paul appeals to the gospel (8:9) as the motivational ground of our generosity?

As you think about the thousands of needs around you, how do you determine which ones are worth giving to and investing in? In the grand scheme of things, and according to this passage, what should all of our generosity advance? Why?

What prevents you from living with extravagant generosity, whether it's your financial giving, use of time and talents, or even in your pursuit of those who are different from you? What needs to change?

Praise

And I hear the Savior say, Thy strength indeed is small; Child of weakness, watch and pray, Find in me thine all in all; 'Cause Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow

Lord, now indeed I find, Thy power and thine alone; Can change the leper's spots, And melt the heart of stone; 'Cause Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow

And when before the throne, I stand in Him complete; Jesus died my soul to save, My lips shall still repeat; 'cause Jesus paid it all;

"Jesus Paid it All" by Kristian Stanfill