

THE ESSENTIALS: GENEROSITY 2 Corinthians 8 & 9

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

- Jim Elliot

1. The Preliminary Understanding

- The foundation of generosity

- The model of generosity

2. The Practical Outworking

- The motive of generosity

- The means of generosity

- Some methods of generosity

Small Group Application Questions

Getting to Know You

1. Aside from food, shelter, water and air, what is one thing you could not go a day without?

Into the Bible

2. In 2 Corinthians 9:9, Paul quotes Psalm 112:9. The psalmist says that generosity is one mark of those who fear the Lord. What are some of the other characteristics of the righteous found in the Psalm? In contrast, what is the fate of the wicked?

3. In Philippians 4:10-20, Paul commends the church in Philippi for their generous giving to support his ministry of preaching the Gospel. What are some additional benefits of giving that he lists in this passage?

Application

4. Share with your group some times in which you have given of your resources for the benefit of others. How did you know that God was leading you to help?

5. Paul uses the picture of gathering manna from Exodus 16 to illustrate how giving should be fair (2 Corinthians 8:15.) The same idea underlies God's command to Israel to celebrate a year of Jubilee. Read Leviticus 25:8-28. We live in a very different society. What principles can you draw from the Jubilee year that you can apply to your use of money (and other resources) today?

For Families

6. Plan a project that you can do together with your children that allows you as a family to be generous in giving of time or money to someone else.