

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

LEADER'S STUDY

God's gracious generosity:

Colossians 1:16 tells us that everything was created through God and for God. Mankind was made in His image and then given dominion over the earth (Genesis 1.26-30). We can only begin to understand our position as stewards when we understand our position in Christ. Through Christ, God is our Father who provides our every need through grace. Nothing belongs to us, not even things we gain by our hard work. Even the abilities we use to obtain possessions come from God. Earthly possessions are temporary and meant to be used for His purpose.

Understanding that all we have belongs to God, will prompt us to be "open handed". There is joy and freedom in giving unconditionally as we are asked, trusting that by giving, God will build His kingdom. The motivation for our generosity should come from that understanding. Instead of seeing it as giving from our prosperity, we understand we are returning to God what He has graciously given us. When we look at our possessions as something we earned, then our choice to share them becomes self-focused. By understanding that our time and material things are God's resources, we begin to ask, "How can I bless someone with what God has given me?"

There are times when God may call us to participate in building His kingdom before He provides the resources to do so. This is an opportunity to trust God to provide for the task He calls us to. Our giving is not based on the abundance of riches He gives, but on His promise to supply all our needs. (Phil 4:19)

As you prepare for this week ask yourself questions like these. How has God's grace affected me? Do I view resources as something earned or something given? What does God's generosity look like in my life? Why do I give? Are there things in my life that I view as my own or things I have earned? How is God revealing Himself and his character through this scripture? How is God changing my thinking? How do I view others, and myself, differently because of the gospel? Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scripture: Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 12:41-44; Acts 2:42-45 & 4:32; Matthew 6:25-34
What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

How is God calling you to think and to live differently? How does this change your perspective today? How is God calling you to respond based on this scripture? Spend some time reading this whole chapter and meditating on it as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word.

PREPARING BEFORE GROUP

PURPOSE: Life transformation through the Holy Spirit. He uses scripture and prayer to renew our minds and transform our lives!

PRAY: Pray for the people in your groups by name. Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to help you lead well as you meditate on key passages and seek to know God's heart.

PLAN: Take some time this week and think about how to pray with your groups. Sometimes this comes easy for a group and sometimes it seems like a challenge to engage in prayer together. Prayer is our declaration of faith and dependence on God. It breaks down barriers to the gospel and it aligns us with God's character.

Because of God's grace, we can pray bold prayers. We have access to God that comes only to His children through Jesus. As you pray together, build each other up with the truth of God's grace. Celebrate who He is and what He has done. Bring your requests to Him knowing that He is a father who takes great joy in providing for the needs of His children.

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

And meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective.

Consider reading the whole chapter or even the whole letter before your meeting to help you understand the context.

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer all of these as a group

What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?

What seems to be the main point of these verses?

What did you discover or learn about God and His character from this passage?

How does this portion of scripture point to Jesus and the gospel?

Look at one or two key words and define them really clearly, then look at them in context with that definition. Does this change your understanding?

Why did God bring me to this scripture today?

What parts of this passage are challenging to your current way of thinking?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How are you going to obey this passage?

What is your "I will" statement?
(Encourage everyone to steer clear of "we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

With whom are you going to share what you have learned?
(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth and it blesses the one who hears the it. Rom 10:17)

Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?