



Small Group Participant Guide

2 Corinthians 8:1-15 | What Jesus said about...the poor

Key Verse: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9, ESV)"

Objectives: Through your time exploring this passage, you will:

Discover God's standards of poverty and wealth, and God's intent for your use of financial resources.

Discuss God's economy and how you fit into it.

Apply God's command for generosity to address poverty.

Conversation Starter: "Relative Wealth" – join in on the opening discussion!

The Macedonian Example (2 Corinthian 8:1-5)

What stands out to you in this passage?

What does it mean to you that they gave according to their means and beyond their means?

What does it mean to commit yourself first to the Lord and then to others? Why does that make a difference in addressing the needs of the poor?

How have you seen such a commitment (first to God and then to others) and giving according to and beyond your means bring about a similar great report of joy and blessing in your life?

Applying the Macedonian Example (2 Corinthians 8:6-8)

Paul moves from the Macedonians' inspiring example to exhort the Corinthians to follow. What

are the five areas where the Corinthians excel and what do you think these mean?

Is it possible to excel in these five areas and still not be generous to the poor? Why or why not?

Why is verse 8 significant?

The Christian ideal of Generosity (2 Corinthians 8:9)

What is so powerful about the restatement of the Gospel here, with Paul's use of "divine economy" terminology?

Do you think your generosity is affected by revisiting the generosity of Jesus, in relation to His giving up His wealth and taking on your poverty so you may be rich? If so, how?

Being Practically Generous (2 Corinthians 8:10-15)

What principles do you see here toward being consistently generous to address poverty?

Which of these principles is most encouraging or inspiring to you? Why?

With these principles in mind, how will your generosity be practiced differently?

Jesus in Focus

Where in this study do you see Jesus: Christ-like practices, examples, principles?

What are some other Scriptures that come to mind or are relevant to this chapter's themes, teachings, or emphases?

What is one "take-away" for you from this chapter?