**1. Motivate**

What images come to your mind when you hear about a “cheerful giver”?

* smiles as he/she gives to the offering
* hums a tune as they place donation in the mail
* prays God’s blessing on the missionary offering given
* gives a kind word along with a tip to restaurant server
* offers a word of encouragement even when pan-handled
* maybe they’re faking the “cheerful” part
* that person has so much money, maybe it’s fun to give it away

**2. Transition**

The results of generous giving are powerful

* And you don’t have to be a billionaire to be generous
* Give generously and trust God with the outcome.

A video introduction to the Bible study is available. View at <https://tinyurl.com/3x385d83> If you have no wi-fi where you teach it is best to download the video file to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/3zx59jsm>

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 God Enables Our Giving

Listen for an analogy Paul uses for giving.

2 Corinthians 9:6-9 (NIV) Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

Imagine a wide, fertile field with only four cornstalks growing in it. What does the field suggest about the farmer?

* foolish
* wasting good land, potential
* stingy with seed
* he will end up with small harvest

What does verse 7 say about how should we give?

* proportionally to income
* tithe is 10%, a proportion
* further offerings are similarly proportional
* modest income can provide only modest giving, a person of great wealth is more easily able to give larger amounts

Note how this illustrates Paul’s words … *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly*

What examples can you cite of spare and generous sowing in churches today?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Spare Sowing | Generous Sowing |
| * not enough SS teachers for children * 80% of work in the church done by 5% of the members * nominating committees must beg * some faith missionaries must travel far and wide to acquire full support | * many people working as volunteers in the church ministries * helping needy families in community * willingness to aid one another in practical ways * giving to foreign missions |

What promise does God give to believers who do give generously?

* be reminded that God supplies our needs
* even though you are donating of your limited resources, God can make what remains entirely sufficient
* when you are generous with your resources, God is generous in supplying your needs

For what reason did Paul quote Scripture in verse 9?

* Paul wanted readers to have some Scriptural proof for what he was teaching
* showed he was basing his advice on a Scriptural concept
* this was more than just Paul’s ideas

Think about when you pay your bills. Why are you not usually cheerful after a bill paying session?

* bills are high, income is barely able to cope
* you regret some of the things you spent money on
* you feel like you didn’t get your money’s worth
* you don’t like the way prices are going up all the time

The passage says that God loves *cheerful* giving to His Kingdom. Why do you think God would enjoy for us to be cheerful when we write a tithe check or put our cash into an offering envelope?

* shows our love for God
* demonstrates we are trusting God for our needs
* shows we are not being coerced, not thinking of it as another pesky bill to be paid
* you are excited to see how God uses your gift to accomplish His work

What could a reluctant giver do to become a more cheerful giver?

* talk to God as you make out that check or stuff the envelope
* pray about the use of the funds
* pray God’s blessing on the funds you give
* pray God’s blessing on the people who will be ministered to through the gift
* investigate unique ways of giving such as filling and donating an Operation Christmas Child shoebox for Samaritan’s Purse
* give of your time in special projects such as Operation Christmas Child

3.2 God Multiplies Our Giving

Listen for who is the source of all we possess.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (NIV) Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

What does God provide?

* seed to the sower
* bread for food
* increased seed as needed
* an enlarged harvest … harvest of your righteousness

What results from the generosity of Christians?

* God makes you rich in many different ways
* this is for the purpose of being generous
* God will be praised when believers are generous

How do you think God enriches His people for generous service?

* provides their needs in ways we do not expect
* when we demonstrate trust and obedience, we receive God’s peace and joy … Fruit of the Spirit
* blesses them in such a way that they can be even more generous
* demonstrates the concept of the Body of Christ, the Church ministering to one another

Consider verses 8 and 11, let’s list the uses of the words “all” and “every”

* *all* grace
* *all* things
* *all* times
* *all* you need God does all of these
* abound in *every* good work
* rich in *every* way
* be generous on *every* occasion ⇨ This is what God calls us to?

Which of these does *God supply* and which are our actions?

If you tithe and give some beyond that, your spendable income is lowered 10% or more. What do these two verses have to say about the missing funds in your budget?

* you will have no lack
* *whatever* you need, God is sufficient to fulfill the need
* God makes up the difference … and more
* God enriches you so you can be *more* generous

3.3 God Is Glorified by Our Giving

Listen for what glorifies God.

2 Corinthians 9:12-15 (NIV) This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

What things are listed here that are accomplished when you give to God?

* supplies needs of God’s people
* demonstrates thanks to God
* causes others to praise and be thankful to God
* others will praise God for your obedience
* your Christian testimony is validated to others (what you do matches what you claim to be)
* you demonstrate God’s love to others

How does your generous giving communicate the gospel of Christ?

* it is a testimony to the world
* demonstrates the old saying, you “put your money where your mouth is”
* makes possible, pays for the spread of the Gospel around the world

What is the relationship between action and one’s profession of faith in the gospel of Christ?

* what you say you believe should be demonstrated in how you live
* if you say you believe what Scripture teaches (including what we’ve seen about generosity), that should be how you act
* if you *trust* God (what He says), then you will *do* what He tells you
* obedience without faith is *coercion* or *compulsion*
* faith/trust without obedience is an oxymoron … those two attitudes cannot coexist

What did God give the Corinthians who had sent the offering to the suffering church in Jerusalem?

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

* the prayers for them by the Jerusalem church
* their heartfelt response of thanks
* God was praised for the generosity of the Corinthians
* acknowledgment of God’s blessings (grace) to the Corinthians so they could give

Paul ends this passage thanking God for His indescribable gift. What point do you think Paul was making in the context of these verses?

* our tithes and offerings pale in significance to God’s gift to us
* we should be motivated to generosity by what God has done for us
* our contributions can never repay God for what He has accomplished for us
* we are privileged to have a part in bring that priceless gift to others who have never heard

A cartoon of a police officer

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Thank.

* Make one day this week a “gratitude-focused day.”
* Set your alarm to pause at the top of every hour to spend an entire minute of gratitude.
* Gratitude is the perfect soil to nurture a heart of generosity.

Give.

* Support the ministry and missions of your church through regular, faithful giving.
* If you give to support other Christ-centered ministries, great!
* But let the first place of giving be through your local church family.

Increase.

* Set a goal of increasing your financial support to your local church.
* If you are already a tither giving at least ten percent, pray about how you can increase that percentage.
* You may need to take a hard look at some adjustments you can make in your personal budget to make this a reality, but trust God with your generosity.

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Fallen Phrases Puzzle

A person wearing a black hat

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Hooligans have been throwing stones at the sign with my quote. The letters fell straight down, but not in order vertically. We need your help to move them back up to their correct position. Replace the letters in the obvious columns with only one letter missing. Then work on the two and three letter words to replace letters which make reasonable words. When you finish, nail the message to the main doors of your church. Help and more Fun Family Activities are available at <https://tinyurl.com/3zx59jsm>