

“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.”

II Cor. 9:8

“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.”

II Cor. 9:10

“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.”

II Cor. 9:11

4. Givers always have _____.

Stewards R Us

1. God owns everything and I'm his _____.
2. My heart always goes where I put _____.
3. Pray for God's _____ in how to use it.
4. On the card write what you did with the _____.

Group Discussion Questions

Connecting:

1. Describe a time when someone overwhelmed you with an act of lavish generosity. What touched you most deeply about that act.
2. Based on that experience, what statement would you make about the power of generosity?

Growing:

3. Read together 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15.
4. When it comes to tithing, we often consider it to be what we “have to do” or what we “*should be doing*,” almost like paying dues. Discuss your reaction to this statement: “*The tithe is not a ceiling; it is merely a floor.*”
5. How do Paul’s words to the Corinthians support this statement?
6. Verse 7 says, “*For God loves a cheerful giver.*” The Greek word for cheerful (ἡλάρων - hilar-on) is where we get the English word “hilarious.” Discuss what it means that God loves a “hilarious” giver?

Applying:

7. We hear and think often that “*some day when I have more money or if I were to win the lottery, I would give so much away!*” Do you have these thoughts now? Have you had them in the past? Discuss how this mentality can contribute to a lack of generosity, both on your part to others and on God’s part to you.
8. Discuss your thoughts on the “Stewards R Us” exercise entrusted to you from Sunday’s message. *For those in your group who did not attend the service, explain to them what was entrusted to those who were in attendance.* Might there be opportunities for your entire group to participate?

Personal Application Ideas

1. Perhaps walking through issues of money and debt management is what you need. The Personal Finance Ministry of Redeemer would like to help you. This comprehensive financial program offers free personal counseling sessions to teach biblical stewardship and to better understand current spending. The goal is to develop a plan to permanently reduce debt and financial burden through disciplined spending habits. Contact Mike Russell at (763-767-0409).

Personal Application Ideas *(continued)*

2. One of the biggest hindrances to faithful stewardship is our chronic failure to see our present lives through the lenses of eternity. Martin Luther, the 16th Century reformer, said he had only two days on his calendar: *Today* and *That Day* (the first day on the other side of death). Your spiritual exercise is to live this week with those two days before you.
- Write “*Today*” and “*That Day*” on cards and place them in strategic places – your calendar, your wallet, your car visor, your desk, etc.
 - As you go about your daily routines, as you make moment-to-moment choices concerning your money and possessions, as you engage in relationships, as you expend time and energy, continually come back to the question: Am I investing *Today* in light of *That Day*?
 - Observe what difference it makes to live your life this way. Make a few notes in your journal or on a piece of paper to aide in this reflection.

Daily Reading Plan

Monday – 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

Tuesday – Matthew 25: 14-30

Wednesday – Ecclesiastes 5: 10-15

Thursday – 2 Timothy 3: 1-17

Friday – 1 Peter 5: 1-10

Memory Verse for Week: 2 Corinthians 9: 7,8

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 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.”

Additional Resources

1. The Treasure Principle: discovering the secret of joyful giving, by Randy Alcorn
2. Money, Possession & Eternity, by Randy Alcorn (includes questions for group study)
3. Website: Eternal Perspective Ministries, www.epm.org (Includes article by Randy Alcorn, click on the Money icon)
4. Secrets of the Generous Life: reflections to awaken the spirit and enrich the soul, by Gordon Macdonald. *Generosity isn't about money; it's an attitude of the heart. In Secrets of the Generous Life, MacDonald reflects on generosity as an oft-neglected spiritual discipline, and as a measure of the heart. The daily meditations will feed your soul and inspire you to experience a joyous life of generosity.*
5. Books by Mary Hunt with practical plans for becoming debt-free:
 - Debt Proof Living
 - Debt-Proof your Marriage
 - Debt-Proof your Kids

Check out her website at www.cheapskatemonthly.com

These and other resources are available at Northwestern Bookstores (www.nwbooks.com), Christian Book Distributors online (www.christianbook.com), or Amazon.com (www.amazon.com)



Doing Life Together

Pastor Dave Glesne Givers Always Have More Than Enough
March 28, 2004 II Corinthians 9:6-11

What does God's Word say about money?

1. Money is important to _____.

In the Bible - 'believe' is used _____.

- 'pray' is used _____.

- 'love' is used _____.

- 'give' is used _____.

2. We _____ what we _____.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

II Cor. 9:6

3. God loves a _____.

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” II Cor. 9:7