



GRACE OF GIVING



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WHAT'S INSIDE

Generosity doesn't just happen - it is a gift of God. This short study explores how God provides for his church and the building of his kingdom through the generosity of his people as he lavishes his gifts upon us.

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV®
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HOW TO USE THESE STUDIES



These studies are short modules to help workers think more deeply about different areas of your workplace witness. They are designed to be used in Evangelistic Prayer Teams (EPTs), but can also be used in any small group setting.

THE GRACE OF GIVING

Australians on average give less 0.4% of their income to charity. Only 60% of Australians make a gift to charity, and of those earning in excess of \$1 million, 43% give nothing.¹ If Australia is the lucky country, it's certainly not the generous one. Do you think generosity is a valued virtue in Australia?

BIG IDEA

Generosity that gives to the kingdom of God is not an innate attribute but comes as a gift of God. We should see giving as a privilege as we join with God and his people in building his kingdom.

From the Bible

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. **2 Corinthians 8:1-7**

What makes some people generous and others less so?

¹ Roy Morgan research report "Slowdown in giving to charity a major issue" Feb 22 2019 - <http://www.roymorgan.com/findings/7885-slowdown-in-giving-to-charity-a-major-issue-201902212238> and Koda research report "A snapshot of Australian Giving" - https://acfid.asn.au/sites/site.acfid/files/resource_document/koda-capital_snapshot-of-australian-giving-2018.pdf

Key Truths

1. Extraordinary generosity is a gift of God. The Macedonian churches demonstrated rich generosity in the face of severe trial and extreme poverty as an overflowing of their joy.
2. The Macedonians gave beyond their ability, pleading for the privilege of sharing with their brothers and sisters abroad.
3. By the grace of God we can excel in fruitfulness; in faith, speech, knowledge, diligence and in love. We can also excel in giving generously by the grace of God.
4. The grace of God enables us to give generously for the good of God's people. Only by the grace of God can we ever hope to give generously.

Application

We tend to break up ways of showing fruit into those areas that are a privilege (speaking, leading, etc) and those that are a chore (cleaning the toilets, doing the accounts etc) {though maybe for you those lists might swap}. Does giving generously for the good of God's people and for the kingdom fill you with joy or make you groan? Is it a joy or chore?

When requests for financial support come do you groan or cheer?

Do you find yourself spiritually giving yourself a pat on the back when you give?

When we give, we can quickly forget that it's actually God working his grace in us.

What difference does it make when we remember this important fact?

Supporting to City Bible Forum

City Bible Forum relies on the generosity of God through his people. Giving to City Bible Forum can be an opportunity to joyfully live out the grace God has lavished upon us.

There are many great things for Christians to support: local church, overseas missions, the poor. But have you considered regularly supporting to City Bible Forum?

Maybe you're short on cash but can give in other ways. People have supported City Bible Forum through many creative ways in the past. There have been Jazz nights, cocktail banquets, hosted dinners, canoe adventures, bike rides, mentoring sessions... could you organise a fundraiser for City Bible Forum?

Prayer

Pray for joyful generous hearts.

Pray for the finances of City Bible Forum, that God would provide for us so we can continue to reach the world through the workplace with the good news about Jesus.