


# Study Questions for *The Grace of Giving*

The bottom of the page features a decorative design consisting of several overlapping gray rectangular blocks of varying shades. These blocks are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and modernity, with some blocks having rounded corners and others being more rectangular.

# Study Questions for *The Grace of Giving*

## **SESSION 1: PRINCIPLES 1-3**

Read 2 Corinthians 8-9.

1. It's right that we don't advertise how much we give. But would anyone like to share how you began to take giving seriously? How long ago was it? Has it been hard to keep going? Have there been any special moments of blessing or delight when you've been able to contribute to a particular need?
2. What can we learn from the Macedonian Christians? (2 Cor 8:1-5)
3. Are there ways we could change our mindsets to be less allured by comfort?
4. How else may we use the gifts God has given us with generous hearts?
5. The Apostle Paul doesn't command the Corinthians to give. He invites them to look at the cross and at Christ's giving of himself (2 Cor 8:8-9). John Stott refers to earthly riches as 'meagre in comparison' with what Christ gave. Why do we lose sight of this so often? How can we encourage ourselves, and one another, to a more spiritual perspective?

## **SESSION 2: PRINCIPLES 4-5**

Re-read 2 Corinthians 8-9.

1. 'Christian giving is proportionate.' Have there been times when you wanted to give more than you could? How did you feel?
2. The Antioch Christians gave to the famine-stricken Judean Christians 'each according to his ability' (Acts 11:29). In a family budget, how do we work out what we can afford to give? If you are in charge of your own finances, how do you divide up your giving if you know of several people or ministries whom you would like to support? Much of this may be between you and the Lord, but are there principles or stories that you could share which would help others?
3. There may be times of unemployment, or of particular need in the family, when you have to cut back on giving and reduce your regular support. Does this seem unspiritual? It shouldn't, if we take to heart the Apostle's teaching in 2 Corinthians 8:12. Has this happened to you? Is it something you could share with the group?
4. How does this same verse apply to times in life when salaries rise or bonuses are given?
5. How do you respond to Principle 5 in the booklet? We are not all the same, and we have different tastes and comfort levels. Is there a level of inequality in your fellowship which makes it difficult to exercise hospitality? If so, how can that be addressed?

### **SESSION 3: PRINCIPLES 6-10**

Read 2 Corinthians 8:16-9:15.

1. Why didn't Paul just handle the collection on his own? (We recommend the [How to handle money](#) course for additional study on how collections should be supervised.)
2. Are there stories of generosity you have heard which have spurred you to greater giving? Have you been part of a church with a building project, where everyone had to pull together and give whatever each could possibly manage? How did it affect the life of the church?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-3. In today's terms, this may not be about setting cash aside each week so much as setting up a bank transfer each month. We are all in different situations. Single people can decide individually what to give. Married couples will need to decide together what to give. What steps will help you arrive at that 'settled conviction'?
4. Paul talks of the principles of harvest in Christian giving. If we think spiritually, we will naturally want to see a big spiritual harvest. Is it worth investing money into it?
5. Read Principle 9. Can we say we are 'pleased' to give? In what way(s) do you express your theology in giving? Has there been a recent ministry or event you have supported from which you can illustrate this for the group?
6. Paul writes of Christian giving increasing thankfulness to God. Read 2 Corinthians 9:11-13, 15. Has this short course helped you see your giving in a new light?