



Home Teams
DISCUSSION GUIDE

RESTORE

CONTINUING THE UNFINISHED JOURNEY

READ

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-7 NIV

¹And 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.

GALATIANS 5:22-23 NIV

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

IN THE WORD

1. The believers in Macedonia in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 were geographically “next door neighbors” to the believers in Corinth (to whom the letter was written). With the way it is expressed, do you think comparing one group to the other caused resentment or bruised feelings? How do you think they might have reacted?

2. In verse 2, the Scripture tells us that there were two ways in which they were under extreme pressure—what were they? This verse also

tells us that there were two wonderful outcomes of their faith that we can imitate—what were they? Is there a connection between what they struggled with and the two virtues we see here?

3. What do you think verses 4 and 5 mean?

4. It's clear that the Apostle Paul is encouraging the believers in Corinth to imitate the joy and generosity of others. Verse 7 shows us areas in which they already excel. Discuss each area that is mentioned and compare them to the "grace of giving." Is generosity more difficult to excel in than these areas?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

1. Has anyone ever told you that you were a "model" for them to follow? Do you think others would consider you an example of a generous person?

2. Have you experienced great difficulty or struggle and seen it produce

one of the fruit of the Spirit? (See *Galatians 5:22-23*)

3. Do you find yourself eager and joyful in being generous when it comes to others needs and/or God's kingdom? What encourages you in this regard? Is there anything that is discouraging to you?

4. How would you have reacted if you were in the church to which Paul's letter was directed? Would you have felt uncomfortable with the comparison to the other believers?

5. How could you become a person more like the Macedonians—a person the people of God look up to and seek to emulate as it relates to your generosity?

PRAY

Pray for each person in your Home Team as they consider how God has uniquely crafted THEM to give in a way that only THEY each can.

The Macedonian church was in extreme poverty and yet God used them to demonstrate incredible generosity. God isn't asking us to give from what we don't have; He is inviting us to give from what we DO have. Pray for God to reveal to each one of us what He is asking us to do with the resources we have been given.

CONTINUED LEARNING

(self-study throughout the week)

Scan 2 Corinthians chapter 8 and 9 for comments that are primarily "encouraging." Point them out and consider each one briefly. Do you think the balance of these two chapters leans toward positive or negative reinforcement?