



PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE: November 4-10



HIGHLIGHT: *Primary Passage from Sunday*

2 Corinthians 9:1-5: There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord's people. For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action. But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be. For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident. So, I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2: Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.



EXPLAIN: *To Be Reviewed before the group gathering*

2 Corinthians 9:1-5

In 2 Corinthians 9:1-5, Paul continues to push the Corinthians to follow through with their willingness to give, because not only will their generosity help those who are in need but also encourage the generosity of other believers. Paul knows that generosity is contagious and once it is seen/experienced, others will be driven to give and the impact can be multiplied.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

In his previous letter to Corinth, Paul explains our giving is to be prioritized (first day of every week), personal (each of you is to set aside), percentage and progressive (in keeping with your income). Paul understands that although generosity always begins with a heart to give, we can never succeed unless we have a plan to give.



APPLY: For Group Discussion

1.) Everyone has experienced a time when they didn't follow through with a commitment (New Year's Resolution, Personal Goals, etc.) Why do people not follow through with commitments?

2.) Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-2. What do these verses tell us about the Corinthians' heart for giving? How did Paul describe the impact that the Corinthians' generosity had?

3.) *Generosity encourages generosity.* Share a story of how someone else's generosity encouraged you to be generous. Share a story of how your personal generosity encouraged you to be more generous.

4.) Read 2 Corinthians 9:3-5 and 1 Corinthians 16:1-2. After talking about the Corinthians' willingness and enthusiasm, what does he then focus on?

5.) *Generosity always begins with a heart to give, but never succeeds without a plan to give.* What are some ways that we can be prepared and have a plan to be generous?



RESPOND: Bringing the discussion to a point of action

We always want to finish with one personal takeaway from our discussion.

- **Share what your plan could be for being generous. What are you currently doing and what would be one step you could take to increase this?**

Finish by discussing the group's Generosity Jar:

- **What is one cause that we as a group want to give to?**
- **What is one way that you can live more simply, so that you can give more generously? Take that expense and give it to the generosity jar!**