



“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (2 Cor 8:9 ESV).

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breaker questions:

(1) What feelings do you have when someone asks you for money?

(2) How does our culture encourage us to be keepers rather than givers?

**CHRIST THE GIVER.** How is God the Father described as a giver (Jn 3:16)? What in the life of Christ would define him as a giver? Why is the Holy Spirit described by 4<sup>th</sup> century Christians as “the giver of life”?

**CLOTHED WITH CHRIST.** Read Gal 3:27. Paul says we “put on” Christ like a coat. This means that giving is now part of the fabric of the Christian life. Read Rom 12:13 & James 2:14-17 and discuss how and why Christians are givers.

**A GIVING PEOPLE.** Read 4:34-35; 11:29-30. Why is the church—collectively—known as a giving people? Follow up: Read 1 Corinthians 16:1. Paul gives instructions for collection and disbursement here not just to Corinth but to all the churches of Galatia. Is this significant? How does this verse relate to contemporary church practice? Discuss.

**A FUNDAMENTAL REASON.** Read 2 Cor 8:9. Discuss how this verse provides a fundamental reason to be a giver. Compare this with a wide variety of reasons and motivations for giving.

**REASONS NOT TO GIVE.** James Bryan Smith offers three common narratives that are obstacles to giving:

(1) “God helps those who help themselves.” Discuss how we are blessed to bless others, especially those who cannot help themselves.

(2) “If I give anything away, I will have less.” Discuss how we are stewards of what God provides.

(3) “All that I have is mine.” Read Ps. 50:10-12. Discuss how God is the owner of all (Deut 10:14; Ps 24:1).

**A MODEL.** Read Acts 2:45. In what way is this model an ideal not a sustainable reality (see Acts 6:1)? In what way do models continue to hold up ideals for attitude and motivation?

**ONE MOTIVATION: THIS IS WHO WE ARE.** Read 2 Cor 8-9. Paul’s fundraising letter doesn’t appeal to a bad economy or good feelings that come from doing good. Instead, he appeals to who Christ is, and thus who we are. What key words appear in these chapters to describe what giving is to a Christian?