

STUDY GUIDE

DECEMBER 5, 2021

BE RICH | BOASTWORTHY GENEROSITY

2 CORINTHIANS 8-9

Note to Leaders: Every group is different, please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group from each section below.

WORK AHEAD | HOW CAN I COME PREPARED FOR MY GROUP?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 8-9.
2. What observations jump out in this section? What questions come up?
3. Look over your message notes. What was surprising or insightful? What questions were raised?
4. If time allows, look ahead at the "Digging In" section and think through how you would contribute to your group discussion.

FOR STARTERS | THOUGHTS TO GET US ON THE SAME PAGE

1. What did it mean to be "rich" when you were a kid? What does it mean now?
2. What emotions come up when you hear the following words: SPEND, SAVE, GIVE?

DIGGING IN | DISCOVERING WHAT GOD SAYS IN SCRIPTURE

1. What does boastworthy generosity look like?
 - a. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5.
 - b. To what does Paul attribute the church's acts of generosity?
 - c. Read Philippians 2:6-8 and 2 Corinthians 8:9. How does Jesus exemplify and enable boastworthy generosity?

d. Read through 2 Corinthians 9 together slowly. Along the way, stop and point out the things that make the church's generosity boastworthy.

e. What would it look like for our church to participate in God's generosity like this?

2. Wait, the Bible says it's okay to brag?

a. Skim through 2 Corinthians 8-9. How many times does Paul brag about the generosity of the Macedonian church?

b. What about the attitude of the church itself? Is it braggy or humble about its own generosity?

c. What does this teach us about bragging and boasting?

d. What would it look like to call out and celebrate generosity in one another?

e. Talk about the most generous person or church you've ever known.

BRINGING IT HOME | APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Personal Reflection

What are some of the generosity killers in your life? What reasons or obstacles are keeping you from excelling in the grace of giving?

Group Application

How might your group rise to the bar of generosity set by Jesus this Christmas season?

DIGGING DEEPER | IDEAS TO KEEP GROWING DURING THE WEEK

1. Spend some time meditating on Psalm 24:1 and Matthew 6:25-33 this week. What would it look like to rest in the gracious provision of the Father?

2. Sketch out some giving goals by yourself or with your spouse (if married). Where would you like to be in your giving five years from now? One year from now?