

THE   
**READY** |   
INITIATIVE

# A SEASON OF READINESS

## Dear Park Forest Glen,

Our history, as a church, is defined by a consistent readiness to follow where God leads. From our origin as a plant of Moody Church to the intentional decision to become a multi-site church, Park Community Church has always prioritized people. The same is true of those who came before us—men and women who, in 1919, began a Sunday school in Forest Glen because they believed the love of Jesus is best shared in the neighborhoods where we live, work, and raise our families.

That same spirit of readiness is what guides **The Ready Initiative**.

The Ready Initiative is an intentional season for Park Community Church Forest Glen to prepare both our people and our building to better share the Good News of Jesus, today and for generations to come.

We are celebrating what God is doing right now and preparing for what He will do through our church in the future.

In recent years, we have witnessed:

- **Growing Generations:** Our children's ministry is vibrant, often serving more kids than many churches see adults on a Sunday.
- **Deep Connection:** Over 100 people are actively deepening their faith through small groups.
- **Transformed Lives:** We have celebrated over 100 baptisms, seen marriages healed, and addictions broken by the grace of God.

As we move forward with this initiative, we invite you to be part of this continuing story. Whether you've been here for 40 years or you just walked through our doors for the first time, you are part of a lineage of people ready to reach our neighbors and future generations.

Thank you for being part of this family. Let's see what God will do next.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brenton



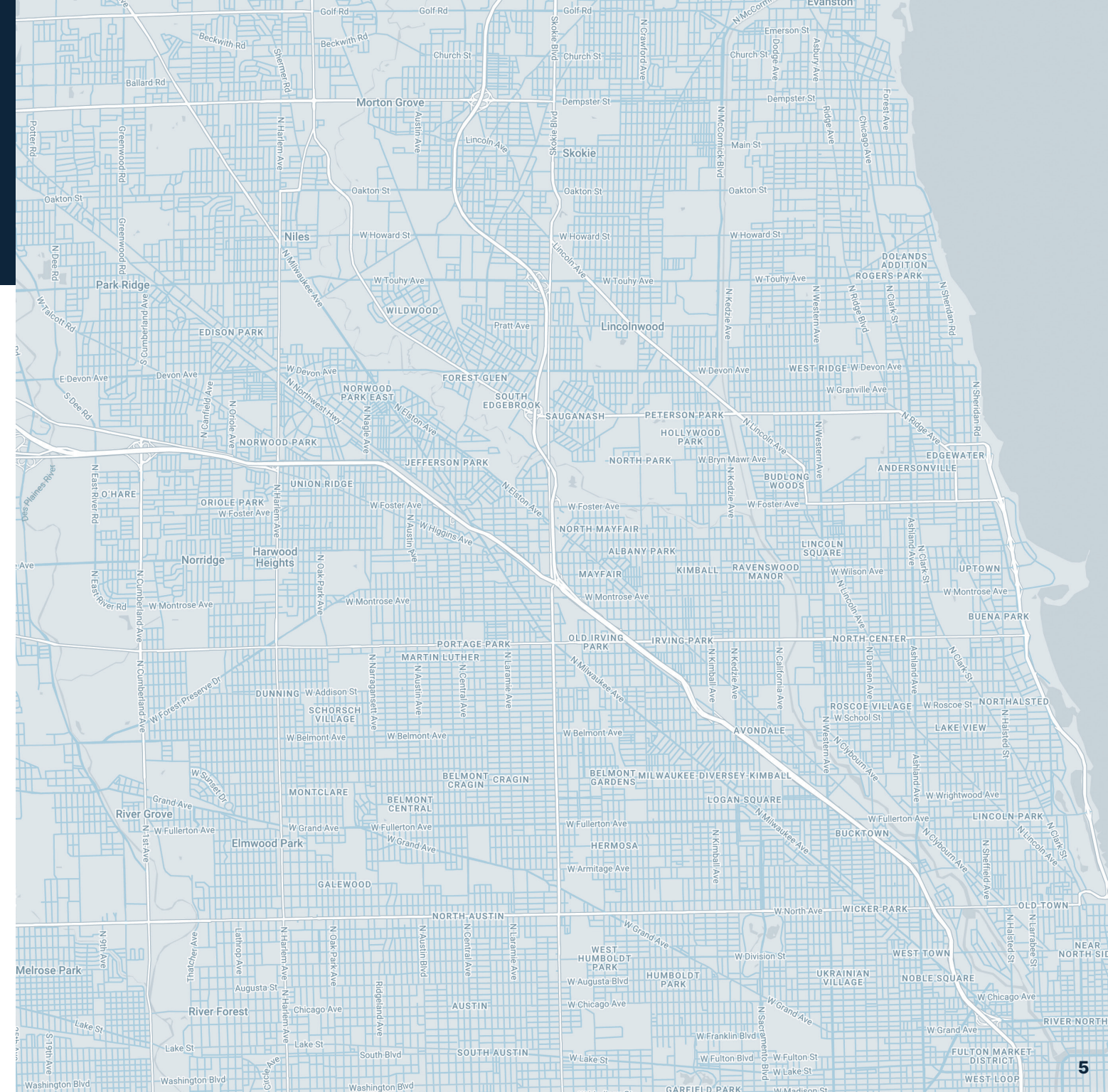
# THE READY INITIATIVE

The Ready Initiative is an intentional season for Park Community Church Forest Glen to prepare both our people and our building to better share the Good News of Jesus, today and for generations to come. Rooted in 2 Corinthians 9:1–5, where the word “ready” appears repeatedly, this initiative reminds us that readiness matters for both the giver and the recipient. It calls us to be spiritually, relationally, and practically prepared for the Gospel to reach others.

## WHY WE’RE DOING THIS

We’re doing this for our “One” — one neighbor, one friend, or one family member who isn’t yet walking with Jesus. We believe the church should always be ready to welcome people, help them connect with God and with one another, and walk alongside them as they grow in faith.

We want to steward what we’ve been given not for ourselves, but for the sake of Forest Glen, Chicago and the generations who will live here in the years to come.



# THE PLAN

Our building is showing its age, faults we've grown used to but that don't reflect the hospitality and excellence we want to offer. Here's what we plan to do:

## MISSIONAL GIVING

Prioritize ministries and Park locations with demonstrated need, including La Vid and Uptown. It will take La Vid many years before it is self sustaining, and that is ok. We want to help them as they grow and minister to those who are new to our country. Uptown is nearing self sufficiency but they are not there yet. We want to help them get closer to it as they engage their community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

## GLOBAL PARTNERS

Continue to grow and deepen support for our global partners, including Tyler as he leaves for Japan this coming Fall (2026).

## CHILDREN'S ROOMS

Replace 20+ year-old carpet.

## LOBBY

Replace crumbling & outdated slate tile.



## WINDOWS

Install soundproof windows for a distraction-free worship experience.

## SIDEWALK

Replace the sidewalk from the street to the front door.

## BATHROOMS

Renovate basement restrooms.



## PLATFORM

Refresh the stage for a cleaner, more uniform style.



## SEATING

Update and add chairs to accommodate growth.

## DIGITAL FRONT DOOR

Improve our digital front door, upgrading lighting and sanctuary technology so online visitors can connect before they ever step inside.

We'd like to add staff to handle increased pastoral and administrative needs, ensuring we care well for everyone who comes through our doors, and those who haven't yet.

# WHAT WE'RE ASKING

If Park Forest Glen is your church home, we're inviting you to prayerfully take part in the Ready Initiative in two meaningful ways: one relational and one financial.

## 1. RELATIONAL COMMITMENT

We're asking each person to identify **ONE person** in your life who isn't currently walking with Jesus—someone local. Be intentional and prayerful as you:

- Pray consistently for them
- Invest time and care in the relationship
- Stay open and ready to engage in spiritual conversations when the time is right

This isn't about pressure; it's about faithfully showing Jesus' love through presence, authenticity, and obedience to His call to go and make disciples.

## 2. FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

We're also inviting you to prayerfully consider a **two-year financial commitment** that goes above and beyond your regular giving. This will help address critical building needs and prepare Park Forest Glen to reach more people for Jesus.

We're not asking for equal giving but **equal sacrifice**. Every gift matters, and each act of generosity plays a part in preparing this church to serve future generations well.

# READY TO GIVE

Together, we can make an eternal impact in our community. Here's an example of how far your gift could go over the course of our two-year initiative.

MONTHLY	ANNUALLY	2-YEAR TOTAL
\$100	\$1,200	\$2,400
\$200	\$2,400	\$4,800
\$300	\$3,600	\$7,200
\$400	\$4,800	\$9,600
\$500	\$6,000	\$12,000
\$750	\$9,000	\$18,000
\$1,000	\$12,000	\$24,000
\$1,250	\$15,000	\$30,000
\$1,500	\$18,000	\$36,000

# CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE

Each one requires sacrifice, but like King David said, “I will not offer up to the Lord anything that costs me nothing!” — **1 Chronicles 21:24**

- Give up a “routine.” For example, a cup of coffee each day for two years can cost over \$2,200.
- Commit your income tax refund check for the two-year period.
- Commit an estimated raise in salary over the next two years.
- Adjust your vacations. For one or more years of the two-year period, do something close and inexpensive like day-trips or picnics. Or take a two-day vacation instead of a week and save on the airfare and hotel costs.
- If you will be paying off some form of debt in the next year commit to continue to “pay the bill” by redirecting the money to the project after the bill is paid off. A \$100 payment per month over two years is \$2,400.

- Cut down on streaming services or automatic subscriptions.
- Put off a discretionary major purchase and redirect the money to the project. For example, delaying the purchase of a new car for a year or two could enable you to contribute \$5,000 to \$6,000.
- Make a “dollar per week increase.” If you’re concerned about making a large commitment, this will help build faith. Start with \$1 the first week, then two, then three. Pray for wisdom in where the next dollar will come from. Over two years, you would give over \$5,400.
- Donate your collectibles. You may have treasures sitting in your home, such as coins, stamps, baseball cards, art or other collections of worth. Consider parting with these items by getting them appraised, selling them, and donating the revenue to the project.
- Donate land and/or real estate. Selling land or real estate of which you are not getting use may generate tens of thousands of dollars or more to help fund the cost of these projects.
- Donate other assets of worth. Do you have jewelry, or an extra boat, car or motorcycle? Prayerfully consider donating them to the church to help fund the cost of the project.
- Make a contribution of shares of stock. This will avoid paying capital gains taxes and provide you with a tax-deductible contribution.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## 1. WHAT IS THE READY INITIATIVE?

The Ready Initiative is an intentional time for Park Community Church Forest Glen to prepare our people and our building to better share the Good News of Jesus, today and for generations to come.

## 2. WHY DID OUR LEADERS DECIDE TO LAUNCH THE READY INITIATIVE?

We want to keep creating a welcoming space where people can connect with God and each other every week. There are over 200,000 people in the three zip codes closest to us who need the hope of Jesus. Like those who came before us, we want to steward the blessings we've received, not for ourselves but for God's kingdom.

## 3. WHY ARE WE DOING THE READY INITIATIVE NOW?

This will be an intentional time for us to prepare ourselves and our church building to be ready, to better reach those who need to hear about the Good News of Jesus today and for years to come. There are key needs of Park FG now that we hope to address and after prayerful consideration by the elders, we believe we are now able to address them.

## 4. HOW MUCH ARE WE HOPING TO RAISE?

For the next two years, we are asking that you give sacrificially so we can raise \$550,000 and update critical needs in our building, care for it well and better welcome those who are not here yet.

## 5. WHEN ARE YOU ASKING FOR MY COMMITMENT?

We're asking our church family to come together on Sunday, May 17, during one of our services. At that time, we invite each household to bring forward one commitment card, including the names of your Ones and your financial commitment. These commitments will help our elders thoughtfully prioritize and plan the work God is calling us to.

Then, on Celebration Sunday, May 31, we invite everyone to begin fulfilling their commitments by setting up digital giving or giving by check.



## 6. WHAT HAPPENS IF WE EXCEED OR DON'T MEET OUR FINANCIAL GOAL?

Only through God's grace do we expect to meet or exceed our financial goals. This requires your prayerful consideration and God's work at Park FG. In the event that we do not meet our financial goal, our leadership team will reevaluate and prioritize the work most critical to preparing us to reach more people for Jesus. We will be transparent about our goal and progress, and you will have updates as we have them.

If we exceed the goal, the vision we have is large enough to use the extra giving.

## 7. WHAT BUILDING PROJECTS ARE PLANNED AND WILL THEY DISRUPT CHURCH GATHERINGS?

We anticipate minimal disruption to our church gatherings and ministries, though it will be a season of working around the projects.

## 8. WHO IS OUR ONE?

Our One is a local neighbor, friend, or family member who doesn't yet know Jesus. We want you to be intentional in your relationship with them: pray for them, spend time with them, and when the time is right, engage in spiritual conversations. Let them see Jesus and God's love in you. This is NOT a spiritual project or to do, but someone who you love and who you want to show God's love to.

## 9. IS THIS PART OF MONTHLY GIVING?

These gifts are above and beyond your normal giving to the church so that the ongoing ministry of the church can continue. If you have not yet committed to giving regularly, we ask that you take this step first toward generosity and then pray about committing to the Ready Initiative.

## 10. CAN I DONATE GIFTS-IN-KIND?

You are welcome to donate gifts-in-kind, please reach out to the [fgelders@parkcommunitychurch.org](mailto:fgelders@parkcommunitychurch.org) to follow up on the conversations.

## 11. WHO DO I TALK TO ABOUT OTHER QUESTIONS?

Please reach out to [fgelders@parkcommunitychurch.org](mailto:fgelders@parkcommunitychurch.org) and one of the elders will reach out and schedule a time to meet with you.

## 12. ARE THE PARK FG ELDERS ALIGNED TO THIS INITIATIVE?

Yes, the Park FG elders, along with Park churchwide elders, are actively involved in the Ready Initiative, have prayed over the need, the ask and the timing, and are fully supportive.



# DEVOTIONAL CONTENT

As we begin this season together, we invite you to reflect on God's faithfulness to Park FG and to consider where He may be leading us next.

Over the coming weeks, these devotions will guide us in renewing our love for Jesus, deepening our commitment to those who do not yet know Him, and readying our church to serve future generations.

We step into this season grateful for those who came before us and trusting God as we move forward together.

These devotions are meant to correspond with the weekly sermons from April 19 - May 24, and contain weekly scripture, reflection questions, and ways to further engage.



## WEEK 1

# 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-18

### BIG IDEA

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### KEY POINTS

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### MY NEXT STEP

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## SHINING THE LIGHT OF GOD

BY ASHLEY BUDDISH

As an artist, I have always been fascinated by Bible verses that mention God as Creator, including His forming us into clay jars in 2 Corinthians 4:7. Sculpting is a slow and diligent process, requiring just the right conditions for the clay to be moldable. When sculpting, the artist's hands carefully apply pressure and direction, guiding the clay with each touch. What once was only the dust of the ground receives breath, going through a firing process to further solidify its form. We are vessels intentionally crafted by God.

So the question becomes: what is your clay jar carrying? Do you imagine your vessel holding something heavy and burdensome, something that you anxiously try not to spill? Or perhaps something more tangible, like coins you're trying to save? Again and again, Scripture reminds us that our jars were made to hold something entirely different: the light of Jesus. Our lives are not vessels meant for careful balancing, storing, or stockpiling. They are lanterns. And every crack, every place of weakness in our life, becomes an opening through which His light shines more brightly. This treasure was never meant to be hidden. It grows stronger not when we protect it, but when we allow ourselves to be broken open and serve His purpose.

From personal experience, I know it is easy to grow weary, being discouraged when we feel our earthly bodies aren't allowing us to invest into the roles and blessings we have been given in this life. Yet God is so gracious to allow for inner spiritual growth, even when our outer bodies are struggling. He still allows for opportunity to share His truth, even in the unexpected cracks of our own jars that we'd prefer to ignore. So whether your jar is pristine on the outside, or weathered and beaten up, people won't pay any attention to the appearance of the vessel when they take to heart Christ's brilliant light shining through.



## WEEK 2

# 2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-13

### BIG IDEA

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### KEY POINTS

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### MY NEXT STEP

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## BEHOLD, NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION

BY RODRIGO MORENO

It has been said that we live in between two great days: the day Christ hung on the cross for the salvation of sinners and the day when He shall return to judge the living and the dead in flaming fire. The period of time that we are living in is a time of grace. A time where forgiveness of sins and eternal life is proclaimed through the gospel message. It is also a time with an appointed end.

The apostle Paul was deeply concerned with the Corinthians. He was afraid that many of them weren't truly saved at all but trusting in a works-based salvation, and therefore showing that they had "received the grace of God in vain." The Corinthians were being misled by false apostles, false teachings and an evil culture.

Paul understood the seriousness of the matter and that the eternal destiny of their souls was at stake. They were being pulled away from the only hope of salvation, the Gospel of Christ. That is why he pleads with his listeners to trust wholly in the Savior while the day of grace still stands open.

If you have truly come to faith in Christ, you know the urgency of the matter. People are being led astray by Satan, the evil world and their own sinful desires. The time of grace is passing, and the day of judgment is drawing near. Only those who are clothed with the righteousness of Christ will be saved. Our duty, as ones who have received God's saving grace, is that of an ambassador. We are to implore all people, on behalf of Christ, to be reconciled with God. For now is the favorable time, now is the day of salvation.



## WEEK 3

# 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15

### BIG IDEA

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### KEY POINTS

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### MY NEXT STEP

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## GRACE THAT OVERFLOWS IN GENEROSITY

BY MAX LEE

In today's passage, Paul ties the grace or gift of salvation with the act of giving to others generously. In other words, he outlines an economy of grace in which he expects every believer to take part. The chain of undeserved giving begins with the grace of God manifested in Jesus Christ. Paul explains to the Corinthians that Christ, "though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich". Christ in his incarnation and his crucifixion held nothing back, and poured out everything for the Corinthians' salvation and ours. Because Christ gave up power from the throne of God to become a human being, and even gave up his own life to die on the cross (Philippians 2:1-11; 17-18), we, too, as those who walk in the footsteps of Jesus ought to love one another in this same unreserved, overflowing, and generous way. We pay forward (not pay back) grace through our generosity. Where there is a need, we are called by God to supply that need and dramatize what grace looks like.

The churches of Macedonia (located in Berea, Philippi, and Thessalonika; Acts 16:12-17:16) demonstrated this same grace when they, in their material poverty, also gave generously to the collection for the church in Jerusalem. A famine had affected the entire Mediterranean world (Acts 11:28), and so for one year Paul had been rallying the Gentile churches to make an offering to help relieve the scarcity in Judea (Romans 15:25-28; 1 Corinthians 16:1-6). Paul confidently reminds us that like manna in the morning provided by God to Israel in the wilderness (2 Corinthians 8:15 refers to Exodus 16:14-19), we can give joyously and abundantly because God supplies our daily bread. In other words, we can give today out of our poverty because God provides for us every day (Philippians 2:19).



## WEEK 4

# 2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-5

### BIG IDEA

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### KEY POINTS

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### MY NEXT STEP

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## PREPARING A BLESSING

BY JOY PARKHURST

Before we dive into Chapter 9, go back and reread 2 Corinthians 8:1-15. These chapters go hand-in-hand, and Chapter 9 doesn't make sense without the context of Chapter 8.

Remember, Paul was leading a collection for the church in Jerusalem, which was experiencing a serious famine. Most of the Christians in Jerusalem were ethnically Jewish, and Paul was encouraging churches full of non-Jews to demonstrate their unity in Jesus across cultural lines by giving financial gifts. Apparently, the Corinthians had previously promised to prepare a generous donation for the Jerusalem church. When Paul visited the Macedonians, he "boasted" to them about the gift the Corinthians were preparing, which inspired the Macedonians to give generously. Now, he's writing to the Corinthians about the Macedonians' generosity to encourage them to follow through with their planned giving.

The Corinthians lived in a collective society that was highly motivated by honor and shame, and in this section, Paul appeals to the Corinthians' honor. First, he praises the Corinthians for their good intentions. Their eagerness to give, he says, has "provoked" or "stirred up" the generosity of the relatively poor Macedonian church. However, if the Corinthians fail to put their money where their mouth is, Paul and the Macedonians will be humiliated when they come to collect the gift—and the Corinthians will be, too. Their failure to materially support Jewish Christians in Jerusalem would reflect that they don't really understand how much they have received from God. It would also show that their love for the church was all talk. Though Paul's rhetoric may seem pushy or manipulative to us, in verse 5, we see that he is offering the Corinthians an opportunity to prepare practically and spiritually to give a joyful "blessing" that demonstrates their acceptance of God's generosity and their genuine love for his people.



## WEEK 5

# 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

### BIG IDEA

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### KEY POINTS

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### MY NEXT STEP

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## THE CHEERFUL GIVER

BY SU LEE

“God loves a cheerful giver.” While we may appreciate any gift, regardless of the giver’s attitude, God looks beyond the offering itself—He looks at the heart. Why? Because He has no need of what we bring.

“All things were created by Him and for Him” - Colossians 1:16

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it” - Psalm 24:1-2

Everything we possess, even our very breath, already belongs to Him. Yet one thing has been entrusted uniquely to us: Our Free Will. Our ability to choose is the one offering that is truly ours to give. Therefore, God treasures willing hearts. When we give freely and generously—moved by love for the Giver, desiring His face more than His hands—our generosity becomes worship. He is a relational God who invites us into covenant love. He seeks not reluctant hands, but joyful hearts surrendered to Him.

Throughout 2 Corinthians, Paul speaks of God’s surpassing power (4:7), surpassing revelations (12:7), and surpassing grace (9:14). Even our capacity to give flows from His provision. The Corinthians were able to bless believers in Jerusalem because God first met their needs and provided the means to be generous.

As recipients of His surpassing grace, when we give cheerfully and generously, God is glorified. Those who receive are moved to gratitude—rightly toward Him, the true source of every blessing, not from human hands. The fruit of generous living is a harvest of thanksgiving, as hearts overflow with praise and glory to God.



## WEEK 6

# 2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10

### BIG IDEA

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### KEY POINTS

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### MY NEXT STEP

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## GRACE IN THE THORN

BY NAIARA DA SILVA

Have you ever had an actual thorn in your body? Maybe a splinter in your fingers? A blister in your foot? Thorns, splinters and blisters have something in common: They are small yet painful, and take more of our attention than we would want.

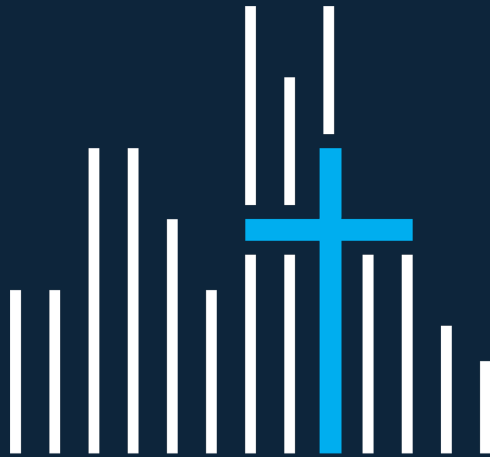
Think of a blister. When you have one, you slow down. You might limp. You may need help. And that's not what we want. We want to move at our own pace. We want to run, we want to live independently.

Maybe you've never had a literal thorn in your body, but you certainly have one in your story—that ongoing, bothersome thing that makes you think “If only this would be removed from my life... everything would be better.” We tend to see our thorns as annoyances, as obstacles to our life goals. But they are truly disguised blessings that serve God's purposes. Think of the apostle Paul. Paul's pain was protecting him from something much worse: pride. His thorn was making him more dependent on God, leaning more in God's power rather than his own.

Pride blinds us—and many times, thorns help us to see. Thorns hurt, but pride kills. And at the end there's only two ways to live: we can run by ourselves in our own destructive direction or we can limp with God towards glory.

This week, ask God to give you grace to accept the thorns of your life with the humility that God's plan for you is better than yours. Real life change happens in weaknesses, not in self-sufficiency. Delight in weakness. Boast in God's power. Smile at your thorns: they serve the purposes of your gracious, loving Father. Let the joy of heaven be greater in you than your thorns.





PARK FOREST GLEN