



We are eight weeks into our journey through 2 Corinthians. In the first seven chapters, Paul laid a deep theological foundation for how the God of all comfort meets us in our fragility, transforms us into new creations, and uses faithful community to heal our deepest hurts.

This week, we leap from the theology of comfort into its real-time practice. In Chapters 8 and 9, Paul addresses a massive financial collection being raised for suffering believers in Jerusalem. Paul does not treat fundraising as an administrative chore; instead, he presents generosity as the natural, joyful, and necessary outflow of a heart that has been truly comforted by God.

### Group Icebreaker

**The Gift of Sacrifice:** What is the most memorable, sacrificial gift you have ever received from someone? It doesn't have to be monetary—it could be a gift of time, a handmade item, or an act of service. Why did it leave such a lasting mark on you?

### Scripture Reading

Select volunteers to read the following key passages aloud:

**2 Corinthians 8:1–9 / 2 Corinthians 9:6–11**

### Group Discussion Questions

#### 1. Joy in the Squeeze (2 Corinthians 8:1–5)

Paul highlights the churches of Macedonia as a model of generosity. He notes that they were facing a *"very severe trial"* and *"extreme poverty,"* yet this combination somehow welled up into *"rich generosity."*

- When we face financial strain or personal trials, our natural instinct is usually to hoard resources and protect ourselves. How does God's grace invert that instinct?
- Verse 5 says the Macedonians *"gave themselves first of all to the Lord."* Why must personal, spiritual surrender always precede healthy financial generosity?

#### 2. The Golden Standard of Grace (2 Corinthians 8:6–15)

In verse 9, Paul anchors all Christian giving in the gospel itself.

- When you look at your checking account, your calendar, or your energy levels, does your giving reflect a response to Christ's radical grace, or does it feel more like a matter of legalistic duty, guilt, or routine compliance?
- Paul talks about "equality" and balancing abundance with need (vv. 13-14). How can the modern global church better practice this across cultural or economic lines today?

#### 3. Sowing and Reaping (2 Corinthians 9:6–15)

## Small Group Bible Study Guide

Paul shifts to an agricultural metaphor: a farmer who throws down seed sparingly cannot expect a massive, life-sustaining harvest.

*Grace that Gives*  
*The Comfort of God, Part 8*



- Verse 7 famously states that *"God loves a cheerful giver."* If someone discovers that their heart feels reluctant or bitter when giving of their time or money, how can they practically cooperate with the Holy Spirit to change that internal posture?
- Paul promises that God will make all grace abound so that you will have *"all that you need"* to *"abound in every good work"* (v. 8). How does this promise dismantle our deep-seated fears of lack or scarcity?

## Closing Prayer Focus

- **A Heart Check:** Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas where spiritual stinginess or fear has caused us to close our hands.
- **For Suffering Believers:** Pray for Christians locally and globally who are facing severe trials, job losses, or persecution, asking God to use our collective abundance to supply their needs.
- **Joyful Surrender:** Pray that our small group would grow in the "grace of giving"—learning to excel in generosity just as we strive to excel in faith, speech, and love.