



## WELL UP

It is exciting to discover that we are all more “\_\_\_\_\_”  
than we think!

### Three questions when you need to get back to reality

What difference does \_\_\_\_\_?

Why would God put us \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_?

If we weren't here, what \_\_\_\_\_?

The secret of how the people of God overflow, and change the world...

\_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 8:1-2 (NIV)

Acts 17:5-8 (NIV)

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV)

Why hope in riches when you can

\_\_\_\_\_

My/Our simple act of local Jesus- goodness this Christmas:

\_\_\_\_\_

My/Our simple act of global Jesus- goodness this Christmas:

\_\_\_\_\_

**2 CORINTHIANS 8:12**



## STUDY QUESTIONS

Use these questions in your community group or personal study time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

### INTRODUCTION

Everyone, it seems, feels strapped these days – not exactly overflowing. No one feels rich but everyone knows someone who is. Yet if we look at the reality of where we live and the lives we are able to lead, we have to admit we are truly *blessed*. Guilt over not being more generous hasn't ever helped anybody. Attaining more never fixes the problem either. Our expectations just go up. So how is a person supposed to *experience* the full-measure of how blessed we are? Where's this overflowing joy the Bible talks about?

It's interesting that when Paul speaks of how to handle money, wealth, and resources (these days he would include our time), he picks a group of people we would never expect if we were standing next to him looking over his shoulder: The poor, and downtrodden Macedonians! Yet he says, they are overflowing with joy, and welling up with generosity. Better yet, history tells us they changed the whole Empire! Our question is what was their secret? How does one live like that?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being super-blessed), how “taken care of” or “blessed” do you feel by God to this point in your life?
  - Is there a difference in what you “feel” day to day about your standard of living and the conclusion you draw when you stop to think about it?
- In your own words [not looking at the Bible yet or using Bible-words], how would you describe what a Christian worldview toward money, time, abilities would be?
- Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-3.** What strikes you most about the Macedonians? The Corinthians? Is there anything that rubs you the wrong way about the Macedonians? The Corinthians?
- Now read 2 Corinthians 8:4-9 [this is a bit of a “next week peak”].** What was Paul saying about the major motivation for our *giving and serving* as followers of Jesus?
- Has there ever been a time when you've given to someone or helped someone and you felt a sense of joy welling up? Did it give you the sense of being set free in some way? If so share it with your group.
- How can the people of your group be praying for you as you consider a local and global act of *Jesus-goodness* this Thanksgiving and Christmas? [Note: We all have our holiday and family traditions. If God has laid another act of goodness on your heart, instead of or along with the ones we listed on Sunday, that's great too. Share it with your group.]

### MOVING FORWARD

Your situation matters to God. He's put you in this place at this time to make a difference. If you weren't here and with your resources, something wouldn't get done that God wants to do through you. When we get that, the realization is overwhelmingly encouraging, and life giving. He does have you right where he wants you, and he's wants to make a difference for you and in you.

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

<sup>17</sup> Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 1 Timothy 6:17 (NIV)