



INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

Proverbs 18:11 (NIV)

How much money would you need to secure your future against all imaginable life scenarios?

ANSWER: _____.

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

When Christ's love is real to you, _____.

2 Corinthians 8:12 (NIV)

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)

P_____ PRE-_____

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)

2 Corinthians 9:10-15 (NIV)

The Big Idea:

The Good News is _____ AND _____.

You are most like Jesus when you _____ and when you _____.

I will let the love of Jesus overflow in me, by....

P_____, GIVE _____, & PRE_____ A %

2 Corinthians 8:14a (NIV)

2 CORINTHIANS 8:3-9; 9:6-15



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

Overflowing with the love of Jesus isn't magic, but there is a truth that God has promised will keep things going once we get the flywheel of generosity going. It's something that not only works in our individual lives, but in our church family as well.

Most of us want to be those kind of generous overflowing people. It's just that life, economic forces, full schedules, and relationship realities seem to overshadow all that we have at our disposal – regardless of our economic or social status.

It's interesting that when Paul talks about making a big impact with our resources, he talks about becoming more like Jesus at the same time. It's also intriguing that he doesn't mention the word "money" once, yet he talks of "grace" and "abundance" (overflow) over and over again.

Could it be that, in our culture, we've learned to take the idea "generosity is good" for granted? That belief hasn't always been the norm and still isn't in many parts of the world.

Maybe one of the ways we Jesus-followers can make the biggest difference in our world, and see hope restored in our own lives, is to rediscover the gift God already gave us to cause "overflowing joy" in our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Has there ever been a time when you gave a gift to someone in an unplanned way, spontaneously, because you saw the need?
 - If so, how did that make you feel?
 - How does it feel for you when you plan your giving (i.e. – cheerful? = 2 Cor. 9:7; dutiful?; ripped off?)
 - Whether or not there is a difference between how you feel in planned versus spontaneous giving, why do you suppose there is or isn't a difference?
- Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 together.**
 - What strikes you most about the description of God in these verses?
 - Is there anything Paul says that causes you to question what he's up to?
 - What do you make of the example of Christ in v. 9?
- Now read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 together.** How does the motivation to participate in overflowing in generosity build in these verses? What is the "grand finale" or result in the lives of people who overflow with the love of Jesus?
- How can the people of your group be praying for you as you consider how to "pre-decide" what percentage of giving God is asking you to be at?
- Spend some time as a group praying for the generosity of our church family, for that people in your group would overflow with the love of Jesus, and giving thanks.

MOVING FORWARD

It's a beautiful thing. Jesus never says "stop that" to people who are wealthy and making lots of money. But he also doesn't ever compare by those standards like we do. He says everybody has an equal place in his big old mission called the Kingdom of God. Everybody has the chance to overflow with the joy of Jesus, and that's really living!

CHANGING YOUR MIND

... your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. 2 Corinthians 8:14 (NIV)