



## study questions

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



### INTRODUCTION

Most people, it seems, feel strapped these days – not exactly overflowing. No one feels blessed 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, persecuted Christians, many of whom were formerly known as "rich people"! Yet he says, they are overflowing with joy, and 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

1. 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?
  - a. 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?
2. In your own words, how would you describe a Christian view toward money, time, abilities?
3. **Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-18 together.**
  - a. What strikes you most about Paul's attitude here?
  - b. Is there anything that rubs you the wrong way in his approach to his standard of living?
  - c. Is there an attitude, or sense here that you really identify with?
4. **In v. 14-15**, what was Paul saying about the major motivation for our *thankfulness, giving, and serving* as followers of Jesus?
5. 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?
6. 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 or along with the ones we listed on Sunday, that's great too. Share it with your group.]  
Pray for our "\$34 Conspiracy" and the people that will be touched by it.

### MOVING FORWARD

Your situation matters to God. He 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 understand that, the realization is overwhelmingly encouraging and life giving. He has you right where he wants you, and wants to make a difference for you and in you.

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

**All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 4:15**

# 2 Corinthians 4:14-15