

# One BRMC Small Group Study

## Giving in Grace

### Participant's Copy

Please note that this study guide accompanies the pulpit sermon on 2 August 2020.

Scripture Passage:

Focus verse: 2 Corinthians 8:4 (NIV)

Complementary verses: 2 Corinthians 8:1-12 (NIV)

#### **Context:**

Last week, we were reminded of what it means to steward what God has given us, which is the value of our lives. This week, on the occasion of Pledge Sunday, we are encouraged to dedicate our pledges to the Lord, as we bring these commitments seriously before God, in stewardship of all that God has given us. This commitment should be an outflow of our prayerful and sacrificial obedience to God, to return a small portion of what He has abundantly bestowed on us. It is also a significant opportunity to participate in God's work in our community, nation and the world.

#### Introductory

1. In 2 Corinthians 8:1-12, why did Paul share about the condition of the Macedonians and what they were doing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Paul sets out (v4-5) key reasons why the Macedonians were able to urgently plead to give beyond their means? What is your view on these key reasons and do you think these key reasons are applicable today?
  - a. *Charis*: the privilege or grace of giving as a response to God's sacrifice and grace.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. *Koinonia*: it is in communion (or fellowship) that we share.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. *Diakonia*: it is our commitment to Serve.

## Reflection

3. The Corinthian church was apparently a wealthy church, and was the first to have the desire and to actually give, yet they may have had concerns and were therefore not fulfilling their original pledge. The Macedonian church was in the midst of trial, yet they were more than willing - they urgently pleaded to give.
  - a. Do you identify more with the Corinthian church or the Macedonian church? Why?
  
  - b. Is there something positive that you can learn from either or both churches? How would this integrate with your understanding of giving as an act of grace, fellowship, and service?
  
4. Do you feel the need to give to our local church – BRMC? If you don't, would you share why? If you do, how would you determine the amount to give?

## Application

5. Are there hurdles to you prayerfully offering your pledge to God? What steps might you take to live as the Macedonian Christians did – “In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity”?

## Prayer

6. Write out a prayer for yourself based on what you have heard and learned from this session.
  - (a) What is in your heart for yourself?
    - Perhaps you need to confess that you have fallen short in your confidence in the Lord and to affirm your desire to draw near to God:

God our Father,  
Your Son accepted the mission You gave Him  
and fulfilled it to the end.

It has cost Him everything He had and was,  
but it also gave Him everything:  
the lasting glory of the resurrection  
and the gift of life for all of us.  
We thank You  
for the supreme revelation  
of Your love in His death.  
We ask You in His name  
to be drawn to Him  
and to be pulled out of our selfishness.  
Give us faith in the fruitfulness of His way of life.  
Teach us to live love  
not as an easy word  
but as a genuine, costly deed.  
Thus may His mission  
come to fulfillment in each of us,  
today and every day, for ever and ever. Amen.

Taken from: *Certain as the Dawn* (Denville, NJ: Dimension Books, Inc., 1980) p106-107.

(b) What is in your heart for others?

- Perhaps you feel led to pray for those who are struggling under these difficult times. Give them to the Lord and pray also for ways in which you can provide practical help:

*"Merciful Father, I thank you for (name/s of family and/or friend/s) Lord I trust that you are Sovereign over their life. I commit (name/s of family and/or friend/s) urgent needs to you and rely on Your promise that You will cause all things to work for the good of those who love You and are called according to Your purposes. Give me wisdom as to how to minister to them and show them how much You love them. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

- It is always useful to collate these prayers and to refer to them for thanksgiving and sharing next week.