



DISCIPLINES OF THE
Holy Spirit

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CONNECT GROUPS

18 & 19 MARCH 2023

“GENEROSITY”

2 CORINTHIANS 9.6-15

Suggestions for Making the Most of your Group Time

1. Begin by reviewing the video of the sermon, preferably before you meet together (see <https://www.brmc.org.sg/services/sermons/>).
2. Read the Scripture passage together, before entering into discussion.
3. Spend time on both question components, namely:
 - a. Comprehension (*Who? What? When? Why? How?*);
 - b. Application / Transformation (*So what? What action should I take? Perspective should I adopt? Value should I uphold? Emotion should I embrace? Habit should I develop? Desire should I nurture? etc*)
4. Discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group’s current context and present stage in life.
5. Before ending your group session, allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another.

Discussion Questions

1. From your review of the sermon and your reading of the Scripture passage, recap the key points of this sermon.

2. Read verse 7 together. This verse explains that for Christians, generous giving involves not reluctance (lit. regret, sadness) nor compulsion (lit. a necessity, a sense of duty), but (i) intentionality, (ii) a willing heart, and (iii) a cheerful spirit. Share with each other in your Connect Group:

a) The sermon reminded us that “Many generous people are not Christian, but all Christians must be generous.” What motivates people in the world to give? How are the motives for Christian generosity different?

b) Which of the following prompts describe your attitude towards giving? To what extent do each of the following match up to Scripture’s description of generosity in terms of (i) purposefulness of intention, (ii) willingness of heart, (iii) cheerfulness of attitude?

- “I give so that God will give me more back”
- “I give because Christians have to”
- “I give because I have too much anyway”
- “I give out of thanksgiving for what God has given me”
- “I give because I want to actively support the spread of the gospel”

c) How can you stretch and grow in giving out of love and thankfulness for God? Are there any obstacles or distractions preventing you from practicing generosity, which need to be removed?

3. In the Scripture passage, we are reminded that God is our provider, and that as we give we can trust him to provide us with all sufficiency (vv. 8-11). How have you encountered God's all-sufficient and even surprising providence in your own life or the life of others? In what ways has your experience of God's generous grace shaped your own pattern of generosity? Share and encourage one another with your encounters.

4. We are to give with the desire to glorify God. As others see us give out of our identity and love in Christ, they give thanks to God because they see the grace of God working through us. (vv. 11-14)

a) When you give, are you tempted to do so for worldly reasons, or with a desire to bring glory to God?

b) To which ministries and causes have you practiced generosity and giving over the past year? Share these not with a view to boasting, but of sharing information with your CG concerning the wide variety of needs out there.

c) How can your CG practise the discipline of generosity? This could be **individually** ("Each one must give as he has decided in his heart", v.7), or **together** as a group ("you (plural) may abound in every good work", v.8), yet always in such a way that the grace of God can work through you, to bring overflowing thanksgiving unto his name (vv.11-12).

Prayer Items

5. Mutual thanksgiving. Take time as a group to pray and thank God for his generous providence – whether of material blessings, intangible endowments, spiritual gifts, the friendship and support of community, etc. Also, give praise to God that he first empowers our giving and that he uses our generosity in a cycle of thanksgiving, prayer, and love – as giver and receiver together see the grace of God working through them. Thank God for his inexpressible gift (v.15)!

6. Mutual prayer. Pray for one another, that we would be empowered by God to live out the specific areas of application and transformation raised during the discussion time. Pray also for any needs that were mentioned.