

SUBJECT: Sharing with Those in Need

DEVOTIONAL READING:

BACKGROUND: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15

LESSON: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

MEMORY VERSE: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9

LESSON AIM: To teach us to give generously and cheerfully to meet the needs of others.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY OUTLINE

I. THE PRACTICE OF GIVING: 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5

1. Locate the country Macedonia on a New Testament Map. Who founded the churches in this country (Acts 16:9-10)?



2. What had God given the Macedonian Churches? 2 Corinthians 8:1
3. What did God's gift to the Macedonians inspire them to do? What should this teach us? 2 Corinthians 8:2
4. What reasons could the Macedonians had given for not helping? 2 Corinthians 8:2
5. Who were these gifts intended to help? 1 Corinthians 16:1-3; Romans 15:25-27
6. Why do you think Paul used the Macedonian churches as an example to the Corinthian Church?
7. According to what Paul said about the Macedonian churches, answer the following statements with true or false: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
 - _____ a. They practiced the grace of giving.
 - _____ b. They refused to give because of their own poverty and afflictions.
 - _____ c. They gave according to their means.
 - _____ d. They gave sparingly.
 - _____ e. They gave grudgingly.
 - _____ f. They gave only because they were commanded or assessed to give.
 - _____ g. They gave beyond expectation.
 - _____ h. They gave generously because they gave themselves first to God according to His will.

8. Why do some Christians give generously and freely while others give sparingly and grudgingly?

9. Why is it important to give oneself to God before giving our treasures, time, or talents?

II. THE PRINCIPLES OF GIVING: 2 CORINTHIANS 8:6-15

10. Who had helped pastor the Corinthian Church? 2 Corinthians 8:6

11. What was Paul encouraging the Corinthians to do in 2 Corinthians 8:6? Why do you think this was necessary? 2 Corinthians 9:3-5

12. What had the Corinthians excelled in? What did Paul want them to add to this list? 2 Corinthians 8:7

13. Why do you think the Corinthian Church had slacked up in the ministry of giving? Why do we slack up?

14. What approach did Paul take with the Corinthians when it came to giving? What should this teach us? 2 Corinthians 8:8a

15. What was Paul attempting to test and inspire in the Corinthians? 2 Corinthians 8:8bc

16. What supreme example did Paul give to teach the Corinthians to give? Discuss. 2 Corinthians 8:9

17. In what ways did Christ become poor? Matthew 8:20; Philippians 2:6-8

18. According to 2 Corinthians 8:9, how do we truly become rich?

19. What did Paul remind the Corinthian Christians about their intentions about helping the Church in Judea? 2 Corinthians 8:10

20. Had the Corinthians done as they promised or pledged to do? 2 Corinthians 8:11

21. How can one best make promises to God's church and fulfill them?

22. Why is making a promise to the Church for financial support important?

23. What financial promises do we make daily to other institutions?

24. How does God expect us to give? 2 Corinthians 8:12

25. What was the goal in giving to help others? 2 Corinthians 8:13b, 14c

26. What would the Corinthians' gift accomplish? How would the Corinthians be helped? 2 Corinthians 8:14

v. 14a _____

v. 14b _____

27. How does God provide for those who trust in Him? Corinthians 8:15

28. How can the church meet the needs of others? How can our country do the same? Acts 2:44-46; 4:32; Deuteronomy 15:11