

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Extraordinary Generosity

January 28 & 29, 2023

When it comes to what Scripture says about generosity, I can't promise, but I can report. In other words, I can't promise what will happen if you put generosity into practice, but I can report what I've experienced. And it's this: The more I give, the richer I feel. The more I give, the more abundance I see in the world. The more I give, the more joy I experience. The more I give, the more I see God at work in people's lives.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-14

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

The early Christians in Jerusalem were struggling with poverty because they were under persecution. The apostle Paul made it his mission to take up a free-will offering from among the churches outside of Jerusalem to support their brothers and sisters in Jerusalem. The Church in Corinth, a relatively wealthy community, initially responded with great enthusiasm, making promises of generous participation. Their enthusiasm waned, however, and their collection ground to a halt. When Paul heard that their efforts had stalled out, he sent messengers with the letter we now know as 2 Corinthians. Paul hoped to encourage the Christians in Corinth to fulfill their commitment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever made a promise but failed to keep it? How did that experience impact you? How did it impact the person/people who didn't receive what you promised? What did you learn from the experience?
- How has God been generous to you? How have you responded?
- What is something that you passionately support generously? Why are you passionate about that thing? How does your passion impact your generosity? How can you become more passionate about other unmet needs that could benefit from your generosity?
- Who is someone you know that is extraordinarily generous? How does their example inspire you?
- Share a story about a time that you planted generously and received a crop of joy.

CHALLENGE: Spend some time honestly reflecting on this section of Pastor Jeff's sermon: "So there you have it. According to Paul, generosity grows at the intersection of provision, passion and planting. The question is, where are you in that picture? If you honestly evaluate how you manage God's resources, does it reveal a scarcity or an abundance mindset? And when you give, do you do it with a joyful passion or with a grudging sense of obligation? And are you planting the seeds of generosity sparingly or abundantly? Those are questions worth reflecting on."