



### Key Scripture:

#### Ephesians 2:4–10 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

#### 2 Corinthians 8:1–2 (ESV)

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup>for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

#### 2 Corinthians 9:6–11 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup>The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” <sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

### Discussion Questions:

Mike titled his preach on Sunday evening “the grace of giving”. **In what way is grace linked to our giving?** Read Ephesians 2:4-10 which ties in with this.

Mike on Sunday said that “*your finances represent your life*”. **In what way is that true?** He also said “*therefore, when you give your finances to God you are giving a portion of your life to him*”. **What do you think about that?**

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 speaks of how a church under trials in Macedonia was given a supernatural abundance of joy which showed itself as generosity even though they were in poverty. **Why must joy flow out from a knowledge of God’s grace given to us? If we lack joy, does it mean we’ve forgotten in-part God’s grace? Will supernatural joy always overflow into generosity?**

**If we feel that we are lacking in joy, what can we do to get it back?**

Read 2 Corinthians 8:7. **Why is generosity highlighted here with faith, knowledge and love? Are those other things complete without also generosity?**

**How would you describe what The Bible is saying in 2 Corinthians 8:6-7?**

**Have you ever met a believer that was much worse off than yourself but had more joy in the Lord?** 2 Corinthians 8:8 seems to say that we will have enough grace given to us so that we can get through the good and the difficult times while still carrying on in good works. **Does this mean that God gives those in difficult circumstances more grace?**

The writer says that the church in Macedonia was in poverty, yet had abundant joy. **How would the believers in Macedonia understand what Paul is saying in 2 Corinthians 9:9-11? How would their understanding of these verses be different from the modern day western churches?**

Read 2 Corinthians 9 verses 7 & 11 together. **How are we to marry these two verses together into our own giving?**

Giving must be fuelled by joy which is obtained by understanding God’s grace given to us. **For those of us who find giving difficult what can we do to be encouraged into generosity, joy and grace?**