

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **September 16, 2018** sermon, "The Act of Grace." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 8:16-24) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE PURSUE ACTS OF GRACE, MAINTAINING TRUST IS IMPORTANT AS WE . . .

1. Develop mutual care for one another (16-17)
 - a. Friend: "One who carries my sorrows on his back."
 - b. Truly caring for friends involves service and acts of grace.
 - i. Caring for others involves sacrifice (putting other's needs first)
 - ii. Caring for others involves initiative (show up; don't wait for an invitation)
2. Develop fiscal responsibility toward one another (18-22)
 - a. Titus was part of a team of people (there's wisdom in teamwork!) (18, 19, 22)
 - b. Titus brought along a gifted minister (credible and known skills/passions)
 - c. Titus' team was tasked with managing and delivering money to the churches of Judea:
 - i. GOSPEL: they kept the message of Jesus at the center of their compassion.
 - ii. GRACE: "Acts of grace" describes their financial ministry.
 - iii. GLORY: Fame and credit is deflected from the people, and given to the Lord.
3. Develop relational bonds with one another (23-24)
 - a. Bonds are deepened and strengthened among those with whom you serve.
 - b. Give proof! Our acts of service should point others to Jesus Christ.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: It's easy to look around and think that "I don't have a friend who carries my sorrows," but why is this mindset selfish? In what way does Jesus carry your sorrows on his back? How does Jesus' real and present friendship strengthen you? How can you become a better friend?
2. Based on #1, above: Titus saw a need, and then took initiative to address the need. He did not say to the Corinthians, "If you need anything, just let me know." Instead, he showed up. Do you have any friends in your life right now for whom you can "just show up"? Give tangible examples of how your life has been blessed by other people showing up and doing something.
3. Based on #2, above: When we serve (or give to) people, we must make certain that we keep the message of Jesus Christ (gospel) central, and the glory (credit) given to God. Describe ways that you can do this in your home, in the neighborhood, at work or at church.
4. Based on #3, above: At church on Sunday mornings, we "worship with believers." Here in Life Group we "walk with believers," and this is good! But in these verses, Paul emphasizes the depth of love and friendship that comes when you "work with believers" in the gospel and for God's glory. Are you working with believers in the gospel and for God's glory? Might God be calling you to work in a ministry setting with other believers right now? If you feel disconnected, is it possible that it is because you are not "working with believers" right now?