

These questions are for the August 16, 2026, message, “Giving: a Model.” Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 8:1-8) out loud.

Passage Outline

1. A brief overview of what the Bible says (2,300+ verses) about money:
 - a) Money is neither good nor bad. We must not love it (Luke 12:34, 1 Tim 6:10).
 - b) Use money: meet family needs, pay-off debts and save (1 Tim 5:8, Prov 13:8, 22).
 - c) Everything you keep and everything you give belongs to the Lord (Psalm 24:1).
2. The foundation of generosity (2 Cor 8:1): God’s grace.
 - a) Begin every day, every expenditure and every decision with this: God has given you everything you need for life and He always will. In Christ, you have enough.
 - b) God saw you in your poverty, sent His Son because He loves you, and has brought you to life by the gracious decision of His own will (2 Cor 8:1, 9).
 - c) Because God gives generously to us, we should give generously to others.
3. The model of generosity (the churches of Macedonia, 2 Cor 8:2-4).
 - a) When should we give? Even in severe affliction and extreme poverty.
 - b) How should we give? In complete joy, and not under compulsion or guilt.
 - c) How much should we give? Proportionately and sacrificially.
4. Summary:
 - a) Giving is a privilege (5-6).
 - b) Giving should increase with Christian maturity (7).
 - c) Giving shows and proves genuine love (8).

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The great lesson of money is distinguishing between wants and needs. The great proof of learning this distinction is contentment. Read Psalm 23:1. In what ways is God teaching you that when you have Christ, you have more than enough?
2. Based on #2, above: Make a robust list of gracious gifts that God has given to you. Name them, “one by one.” How does this list encourage you? How does this list ensure that God will take care of your every need, even in the future?
3. Based on #3, above: This point was the heart of the message. Discuss “when, how and how much” we should give. Point out lessons that the churches of Macedonia are teaching you about generosity. Which lesson comes hardest to you?
4. Based on #4, above: Giving is a virtue which increases among and amidst other Christian virtues. We should “excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness” and love (7). Joyful and willful giving must be present in us, or we are not growing in maturity. Joy is the happy conviction of your heart that God is sovereign over all things and always working. How is joy present in your giving?