

## THE JOY OF GENEROSITY, 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 April 7, 2019

### CONNECT

1. Think of a time when someone was eager to give to you. How did it make you feel? How did it affect your relationship?

### CELEBRATE

2. The Apostle Paul avoids shaming or guiltting the Corinthians about giving. Instead, he celebrates the Macedonian example, compliments the Corinthians in the areas they excel and invites them to complete their work of giving. How does this compare to the ways you've heard giving talked about before?
3. Picture yourself in the gathering of Macedonian believers as they discuss the opportunity to give sacrificially to this opportunity. Based on 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, what do you imagine them saying? What emotions does Paul record them feeling about this opportunity? What might it have been like to be a part of that church?
4. 2 Corinthians 8:5 reveals the Macedonians' key to joy in their generosity—they gave themselves first to God, then to each other. What does it mean to give yourself to God? How is this different from giving your money to God?
5. Does your life reveal a connection between giving yourself to God and giving to His people? How has your relationship to God affected how you view the needs around you?
6. Paul gives an example of churches giving to other churches. To what degree do you invest in the local church as a means to blessing people? For examples of how New Hope Church blesses our community, visit [newhopechurchmn.org/community](http://newhopechurchmn.org/community).
7. Read 2 Corinthians 8:9 & Philippians 2:3-11. Jesus chose to set His riches aside to become poor, to live as a human, die on the cross and rise to conquer death. Why did He give Himself to this? Read Hebrews 12:2-3.
8. When are you most likely to give beyond your means? What causes you to sacrifice what you need for someone else?

### CONTRIBUTE

9. God provides abundant opportunities to give. Discuss how your Life Group can give to the needs of those you know, to the needs of each other and to the needs of this church. How is God motivating you to give?