

Life Group Guide 2 Cor 8:16–9:15 “An Attitude of Gratitude”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Apr 21 & For Use in Life Groups through Sun Apr 28

Icebreaker Question

Have you ever experienced positive peer pressure? Can you think of something good in your life that you started doing or believing because of positive peer pressure from others?

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. An Attitude of Gratitude Sets an Example for Others to Follow (vv. 1-5)**
 - a. Dependability is required if you desire to be an example to others.
 - b. Four ways to be an example in your circle of influence.
 - i. Be an Example in Your Speech (Prov. 18:21; Eph. 4:29)
 - ii. Be an Example in Your Conduct (1 Pet. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:15-16)
 - iii. Be an Example in Your Love for Others (Matt. 22:37-40; John 13:34-35)
 - iv. Be an Example in Your Lifestyle (Psa 1:1-2; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:9-11)
- II. An Attitude of Gratitude Brings a Blessing to Cheerful Givers (vv. 6-11)**
 - a. The Promise of Blessing (v. 6)
 - b. The Process of Blessing (vv. 6-11)
 - i. We reap in measure as we sow (v. 6).
 - ii. We reap as we sow with right motives (v. 7).
 - iii. We reap while we are sowing (vv. 8–11).
 - We immediately share in God’s abundant grace (v. 8).
 - We immediately share in God’s righteousness (v. 9).
 - We immediately share God’s miracle multiplication of what we give and do (v. 10).
 - We are immediately enriched, and we enrich others (v. 11).
- III. An Attitude of Gratitude Strengthens Your Testimony (vv. 12-14)**
 - a. God is glorified when we meet the needs of others (vv. 12-13).
 - b. God’s people are united when we meet the needs of others (vv. 14-15).

2 Cor 8:16–24

Read 2 Cor 8:16–24: Observation:

1. In vs. 16-18, whom does Paul say he is sending to the Corinthians?
2. In vs. 16-18, how does Paul describe Titus?
3. In vs. 18-22, who else is traveling with Titus?
4. According to vs. 20-21, why is Paul sending all these people to Corinth to help them with the money collection?
5. How does Paul describe Titus and the other two men in vs. 23-24?
6. What does Paul instruct the Corinthians to do in v. 24?

Interpretation:

7. What principles for Christian giving and church finances can we see in these verses?

Application:

8. Paul is sending the Corinthians dependable men to help disciple them, and Paul wants the Corinthians to be spiritually dependable. How important is dependability when we are discipling and being discipled? Why?

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2 Cor 9:1–5

Read 2 Cor 9:1–5: Observation

9. According to vs. 1-2, what does Paul say about the readiness of the Corinthians to give?
10. According to v. 3, why is Paul sending these three men to Corinth?
11. According to vs. 4-5, what is Paul afraid might happen if the missionaries show up to collect the money and the Corinthians are not ready?

Interpretation:

12. While Paul is explaining himself to his readers, he is still giving us principles for Christian giving and generosity. What principles are here in these five verses?

Application:

13. In his sermon, Pastor Richard gave us four ways to be an example as we disciple others. Review these. Which of these do you most struggle with? What advice would you give someone for how to be stronger in each of these areas?

2 Cor 9:6–15

Read 2 Cor 9:6–15: Observation

14. What does Paul say happens to those who give sparingly and are not generous in v. 6?
15. According to v. 7, how are we instructed to give?
16. According to vs. 8 and 10, what does Paul say are the benefits of being generous?
17. How does Paul describe God in v. 9?
18. According to vs. 11-14, How does Paul expect people to respond to the generosity of the Corinthians?
19. For what is Paul thankful in v. 15?

Interpretation:

20. This is Paul’s final word on giving and generosity in this section. What final principles does Paul give us for giving and generosity here?

Application:

21. This week memorize 2 Corinthians 9:10 and recite it to yourself when you need to be encouraged to be generous: **“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.”**
22. Review how Pastor Richard described the "process of blessing" in vs. 6-11. How does the process of blessing give us encouragement to remain faithful in our giving and service, especially when giving is difficult?
23. Why is gratitude essential for our testimony and for being an example as we disciple? How does our gratitude (or lack of gratitude) reflect our understanding of the gospel and impact our ability to influence others for Christ?