

## Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 48

### MEMORIZE

2 Corinthians 8:7 – But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

2 Corinthians 9:7 – Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

### READ

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 and 9:6-15.

Generosity can often be a difficult topic. It can lead to guilt if you don't think you're generous enough, or even pride if you boast in your generosity. It's often difficult to know how generous to be. This week we're looking at the motivations and foundations for Christian generosity. We give out of an abundance of grace. We give willingly, generously, and cheerfully. God loves joyfully motivated giving to others because it expresses contentment in God's gracious giving to the believer that makes every good work possible and results in thanksgiving and glory to God. Ultimately, generosity is a demonstration of the gospel as we sacrifice our rights and resources for others.

#### Questions:

What does it mean to be generous?

Why is it important for Christ-followers to be generous?

Why does God love a cheerful giver?

**Bottom Line:** Generosity is a demonstration of the gospel.

### SING

This week's FFWG song is "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" by Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin. Redman based the song on the opening of Psalm 103. He says, "I've always loved Psalm 103 and how the writer lists all of these brilliant reasons why his heart is full of worship for God: he heals our diseases, redeems our lives from the pit, crowns us with love and compassion, etc. So in the verses of this song we try and make a little list of our own—noting of course that we're hardly even scratching the surface of God's worth—there are '10,000 Reasons' for our hearts to find."

This week as you continue in worship, think of the many ways God has blessed you, and in return "bless the Lord", or in other words, recognize and give thanks and praise to Him for His goodness to us.

Visit our website for a link to this song: [www.brookhills.org/gathering/this\\_week.html](http://www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html).

### SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

#### Preschool

- Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 9:7. Gather a balloon and a permanent marker. Draw a happy face on one side of the balloon and a sad face on the other side.
- Read the verse to your preschooler. Note that the word "cheerful" means just that – someone who is happy and joyous.
- Show the sad face. Ask your child how they would feel if they had a birthday party and everyone had a face like that when they gave them a birthday gift. Let them know that God is the same way. It does not please Him when everyone brings gifts with a sad face.
- Show the happy face. Remind your child of the scripture you just read. God loves a cheerful giver.
- Talk about how your family can give cheerfully to your church, your family, or those in need. We should give from what God has given us to be a blessing to other people.

- Remember: God loved us so much that He sent His one and only Son to earth to die on a cross so that we could have eternal life. He gave us the greatest gift of all, Jesus. God wants us to choose to follow Him and to love Him more than anything. He wants us to turn away from our sin and to trust Him. God wants us to share the good news of what Jesus has done for us with others too.
- Conclude your family time with prayer and ask God to help us find ways to cheerfully give to others. Thank Him for everything He does for us.

### Children

- What does it mean to be generous? (to give freely, unselfishly, and abundantly) Let's see what the Bible has to say about being generous.
- Together with your family read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7. You might allow one of your children to help read.
- Is generosity a burden or blessing? What did this passage say about the way the people of Corinth viewed giving to others? (see verses 3-4)
- As Christ-followers, why is it important to be generous? Re-read 2 Corinthians 8:7. This verse reminds us that we give out of an abundance of grace. We give willingly and generously because of what God has given us. What has God given us? His son, Jesus!
- God does command us to be generous. But God goes beyond just commanding generosity; He models generosity. God showed His ultimate generosity to us when He gave His only son to us (John 3:16). It was because God loved the world that He sent His son, and it was with joy that Jesus went to the cross (Hebrews 12:2).
- How does having Jesus as a model of generosity change the way you view giving? Ultimately, generosity is a demonstration of the gospel as we sacrifice our rights and resources for others.
- What should our attitudes be like when we give? Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. The Bible tells us that God loves a cheerful giver. So we not only give willingly and generously, but we give cheerfully.
- Ultimately, we give as an expression of thanksgiving to God for His inexpressible gift (read 2 Corinthians 9:15).
- Discuss ways that as a family you can be more generous. Make a tangible plan for one way you can be more generous over the upcoming holidays.
- Pray, thanking God for the inexpressible gift of Jesus. Pray that God would show you areas where, as a family and individually, you can become more generous. Pray that when we give to others, we will do it out of joy because of the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross.

### Students

- Intro
  - During this time of year, we have a greater tendency to think about giving.
  - But what does giving look like on an everyday, year-round basis?
  - How has the Lord called us to give?
- Discussion
  - Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7.
    - How does Paul describe the lives of the people in the churches of Macedonia (vs. 2)?
    - In spite of these circumstances did they continue to give to the Lord?
    - How was the amount of their giving determined (vs. 3)?
      - We are not all trying to reach a set goal for giving.
      - We are each called to give according to what we have been given.
    - What was the starting point of their giving (vs. 5)?
      - If we have not given ourselves to the Lord, does our giving matter?
    - In v. 7, Paul acknowledges other acts of Christian faith. He reminds the Corinthians that giving is not to be neglected or forgotten.
  - Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.
    - Walk through the *Read* section above.
    - In chapter 8, we saw how the churches in Macedonia gave themselves to the Lord and experienced His grace so that they might give.
    - As believers, God graciously gives to us, as Paul points out, and we give because of and through God's grace.
    - Discuss the questions above in the *Read* section.
  - Read 2 Corinthians 9:7 again.
    - What action step does Paul identify here?
- What has God put on your heart to give?