



# LORDSHIP GENEROSITY

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LEADER GUIDE | SESSION 6

*Stewarding A Legacy*



**SCRIPTURE TEXT** 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

**SESSION IN A SENTENCE** We can steward the resources that God has provided in such a manner that we can leave a legacy beyond our lifetime.

**BIBLE BACKGROUND** This is the second letter we have from Paul to the church at Corinth. We learn in 2 Cor. 1:7 that the church was undergoing persecution and suffering. This circumstance, however, did not hinder the church from striving to faithfully fulfill the calling that God had placed upon them.

**THE BIBLE SPEAKS TODAY** As a follower of Jesus we have the opportunity to steward the resources God has given us in such a way that we can literally contribute to Kingdom causes until the return of Christ. The amount that we have been entrusted with is not the issue. Instead, it is the heart towards generously giving that matters. If we choose to steward a legacy, we will personally know of God's faithfulness to provide and can trust that others will glorify Him through our actions.

# BIBLE STUDY

## Get Your Group Talking

**ASK:** “Who is someone from your past that has impacted the way you live today?”

### Transition to the Bible Study

**SAY,** “Leaving an impact upon someone else begins with choosing to live with a legacy mindset. The impact we leave can be one of good work ethic, a specific skill set we want to pass down, or giving generously beyond our lifetimes. We will learn that it is not about the amount we may have to pass down to the next generation. Instead, it is about our hearts toward God.”

**INVITE** your group members to fill in the missing blanks on their listening guide as you share each of the three main points in this study.

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## POINT 1: CHOOSING TO LEAVE A LEGACY

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

**ASK** a group member to **read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 out loud.**

<sup>6</sup> *The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.* <sup>7</sup> *Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver.*

**GUIDE** group members to understand the text by sharing some of the following commentary notes:

### Commentary

Paul begins this section of Scripture with a farming metaphor of sowing and reaping. If a farmer only

needs to provide for a small group, then that farmer can sow a little. If, however, the farmer wants to provide for a larger crowd, then he needs to sow generously. The amount to be reaped will never be much if the decision to sow sparingly is chosen.

In placing this metaphor in the context of the passage, we can determine that Paul was teaching about giving. If a follower of Jesus opts to give sparingly, then that person should not expect to receive abundantly from God. Likewise, if a follower of Jesus decides to give generously, then that individual will abundantly receive blessings from God. It must be known that this is not the prosperity gospel. Those who hold to this false teaching claim that God will abundantly bless in the now. While God can do this, He is not obligated to do so. The blessings of God are much more than a new car or a large bank account.



We also see in this passage that choosing to steward a legacy beyond ourselves is a personal choice. Paul told the church at Corinth that each person has to decide in his own heart. We can learn two important truths from this passage. First, stewarding a legacy is a personal choice. If we decide to sow generously and leave a legacy beyond ourselves, we need to make this decision ourselves. We do not need to compare ourselves to other church members or what others are doing. This decision is a decision that an individual or couple makes themselves.

The second truth to be learned is that this is a heart decision. In studying Scripture, we are able to discern that the heart represents the center or core of someone's being. This is the reason why Jesus said that we are to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Matt. 22:37-40). Paul told the church that sowing generously is decided in the heart and without reluctance.

Why would Paul call the church to such an action? The answer is found in verse 7; "since God loves a cheerful giver." In doing a word study on the "cheerful" we find that we get our word hilarious from this word. God wants our giving to be hilarious. If someone saw our tax return, would they think we are crazy for the amount that we are giving to Kingdom causes? If yes, then we are getting close to the concept of being a cheerful giver. Why would God love a cheerful giver? The answer can be found in the truth that God is a giver. He gave His only Son that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

**DISCUSS:** What does it look like to give cheerfully and how might God express His love to those who do this?

**ASK:** Prior to class ask someone in the class to

share their story of how God blessed them in their cheerful giving. Ask them to talk about how they reached the decision to give cheerfully and then how God responded. Make sure the person giving the testimony points to the faithfulness of God and not themselves in giving generously.

**TRANSITION TO POINT 2:** Say, "If we are being honest, giving of any amount can be somewhat scary. We already feel like the budget is tight and giving may cause us pause. We will see in this next section that when we give, then we are telling God that we trust Him to be faithful to His word and provide. If we take this truth and apply it to legacy stewardship, we can see how He will provide for others through our faithful stewardship in the now."

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## POINT 2: GOD PROVIDES FOR LEGACY STEWARDSHIP

2 Corinthians 9:8-11

**ASK** a group member to **read 2 Corinthians 9:8-11 out loud.**

*<sup>8</sup> And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written:*

*He distributed freely;*

*he gave to the poor;*

*his righteousness endures forever.*

*<sup>10</sup> Now the one who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will also provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us.*



**GUIDE** group members to understand the text by sharing some of the following commentary notes:

### Commentary

The key to this section is being the first four words of verse 8, "And God is able." The "and" is tied back to verses 6 & 7 which talks about sowing generously. If we can take this truth to heart, then we are apt to steward with a legacy in mind. Even if we are apprehensive in legacy stewardship, we can trust that God is able.

The phrase God is able points directly to "make every grace overflow to you." When learning to write, one is taught to avoid all-inclusive words such as always, never, must and every. The reason these words are to be avoided is because all it takes is one instances in which the inclusive words are proven to be false. This is not the case when it comes to defining who God is and understanding His character and nature. Paul referenced Psalm 112:9 as a reference to God's consistency of character in providing for others.

If we are to steward the resources He has provided, while trusting in the fact that He is able, then we can know that He will make every grace overflow, in every way and always meeting our needs. It is important to point out that the passage speaks of meeting needs and not wants. God is aware of our needs and is faithful to meet them. Not only is God able to meet our needs, but He is also able to multiply our seed and increase the harvest of our righteousness. Paul continued with his agrarian metaphor of reaping and sowing. If someone does not have grain to sow, then reaping a harvest is out of the question. Paul wanted to assure his readers that God is more than able to provide an abundance of seed which will yield a harvest of righteousness.

A truth to be learned here is that God will give givers something much better than more money. Instead, He gives righteousness. A simple definition of righteousness is to be in right relationship with another. If we are in right relationship with our extended family members, then the Thanksgiving meal is a joy. If, however, we are not in right relationship, then the Thanksgiving meal is avoided. When Jesus was teaching His followers the beatitudes He said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" (Matt. 5:6). Being in right relationship with God is a blessing that fully satisfies those who seek after Him. God knows this and therefore gives those who are generous the blessing of knowing Him better and more intimately. As this happens, we are enriched in every way, and this yields thanksgiving to God.

**ASK:** How has God proven Himself to be faithful in meeting your needs?

**DO:** Provide each learner in the class with a small slip of paper. Ask them to write down examples of how God has been faithful to meet their needs. Tell them it does not matter how big or small the need was. After everyone has had a few minutes, ask if anyone wants to share one example from their list. After several have shared, take a moment to lead the class in a short prayer thanking God for being able and faithful.

**TRANSITION TO POINT 3:** Say, "Many of us have heard and agree with the statement that it is not about us. Instead, it is all about God. As we move into our last point, we will see how Scripture supports this statement and how legacy stewardship is a tool we can use to glorify God."

### POINT 3:





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## GOD OF GLORIFIED THROUGH LEGACY STEWARDSHIP

2 Corinthians 9:12-15

**ASK** a group member to **read 2 Corinthians 9:12-15 out loud.**

*<sup>12</sup> For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup> Because of the proof provided by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedient confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone. <sup>14</sup> And as they pray on your behalf, they will have deep affection for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.*

*<sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*

**GUIDE** group members to understand the text by sharing some of the following commentary notes:

### Commentary

An example of this in today's time can be had in a true story of a man who was generous throughout his life but was also generous beyond his life.

This man was a college professor at a mid-sized Christian school. He did not make a great deal of money, but he was faithful with what he did make. He was faithful to tithe to his local church and he gave generously beyond the tithe to missionaries and those in need. When the Lord called him home to his reward in glory in 2022, he left over \$7 million to his Baptist State Foundation. The stipulations on these funds were that they were to be invested and the interest given out to Christ-centered ministries. The interest off of these funds will generate over \$300,000 annually going to various ministries that seek to proclaim the name of Jesus. This is what it means to steward with a legacy mindset. This one man, who did not have a significant salary, wanted to see an overflowing

of many expressions of thanks to God. He saw it in his lifetime in that he gave generously. He will see it throughout eternity in that he stewarded with a legacy mindset.

Paul told the church at Corinth that the end result of their generous giving was others would glorify God for their obedient confession of the gospel of Christ. Stewarding with a legacy mindset leads to others glorify God. The story above is an example of how things can take place. While the story above deals with a significant amount, we can rest assured that God is aware of the small amounts too. It is not about the amount, but rather the decision that is made in the heart to sow generously while knowing that God is able.

**DISCUSS:** What steps do we as individuals need to take so that we can glorify God through legacy stewardship?

**DO:** Lead the class in a brief time of prayer. Thank God for being able and faithful to meet our needs. Ask Him to give each member of the class the courage and faith needed to become generous givers while trusting Him to use the gifts to glorify Himself. Thank Him for owning it all and inviting His children to be a part of the process of confessing the gospel of Christ through legacy stewardship.

**TRANSITION TO NEXT STEPS:** The outcome of studying God's word is not merely to gain additional knowledge for the sake of knowing something. The outcome should be to study and apply God's word so that we can live transformational lives in the world and thereby test and prove God's perfect and pleasing will. The next steps listed below are ways to apply what we have learned in today's study.





## MY NEXT STEP

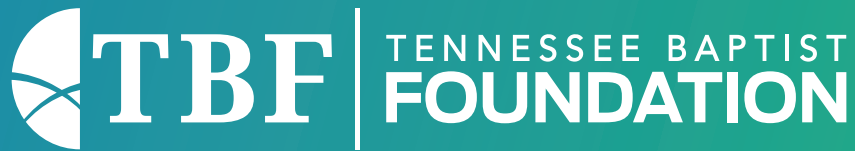
**GUIDE** group members to identify which of the following steps they will attempt before the group's next study. There is one step that is easiest, another that is more challenging, and a final one that will challenge even a spiritually mature group member. They are in random order in each session.

- 1. Build a Legacy Stewardship Plan** – Most states and regions have a State Baptist Foundation that helps followers of Jesus build a legacy stewardship plan at no charge. Make plans to contact the Baptist Foundation in your area and ask them to guide you through the process of leaving a legacy that will give to Kingdom causes until the return of Christ.
- 2. Ask God to give you a heart for cheerful giving** – Giving does not start with our income, or lack thereof. According to this passage, giving starts at the heart. Take time this week to specifically ask God to give you a heart for giving. Rest in the fact that He hears your prayers, and He is able to change your heart while meeting your needs.
- 3. Talk to a staff member at your church** – Make plans to have a conversation with the pastor or a staff member of the church you attend. Ask them if there are any specific needs that they are aware of within the life of the church. If the staff member shares several things, thank them for their answer and begin to pray about how God may want to use you to meet that need. As God answers your prayers, ask Him for the faith needed to respond in obedience.

**SUMMARIZE the session:** Giving is not a money issue, it is a heart issue and legacy stewardship is no different. Each of us must decide in our own hearts if we are going to give generously even beyond our lifetimes. The true story above is an example of someone who did not make a great deal of money but will be impacting eternity for generations to come. We can make this kind of impact because we serve a God who is able.







TODAY'S PLANS.  
TOMORROW'S IMPACT.

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