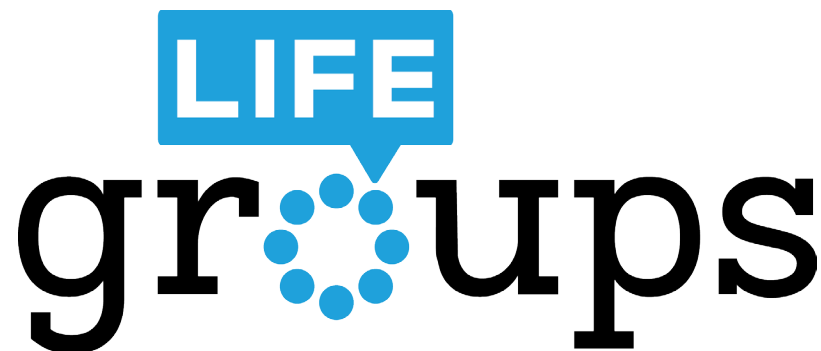


Suggested Bible reading for the week:

Read 2 Corinthians 8 + 9

These are Paul's instructions on generous living. As you read these words, ask yourself this question: Am I being generous with my finances? When we are generous, God can do incredible things in the church and in your life.

NOTES + PRAYER REQUESTS:



The logo features the word "LIFE" in white, uppercase letters inside a blue speech bubble shape. Below it, the word "groups" is written in a lowercase, black, sans-serif font. The letter "o" in "groups" is replaced by a cluster of seven blue dots arranged in a circle.



Begin by watching the "Info for the Group" portion of the DVD and then here are a few questions to get you going:

- ___ What was your high and low from the past week?

- ___ To get your conversation started this week, answer this question: What was the first thing you bought with your own money?

PLEASE WATCH THE DVD'S "MAIN SESSION"

INTRODUCTION

When it comes to personal finances, it is easy to be messed up and not even know it. Some of us start off with bad information, make a bad decision or get distracted by something we think we need. Whatever the reason, once we realize the mess we are in, how can we find our way back? This week, we hear from Student Ministry pastor Darryl Janzen as we learn the importance of being generous towards God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the most generous act that you have ever experienced that was directed towards you?
2. When it comes to your resources – your time, energy, and especially your money – do you consider yourself to be a generous person? How do you decide when, or how, to be generous?
3. Considering your own motives, or those of people you know, what are the reasons people tithe? What are the common reasons people don't tithe?
4. Consider the way you handle your finances. Are you generous with whatever money is leftover at the end of a pay period? Or do you live off a percentage of your income while being intentional with the rest?
5. Read **2 Corinthians 9:7–8**. How do you decide what to give to God? What does verse 8 promise to those who give to His work through the local church?
6. Read **2 Corinthians 9:10–11**. What do these verses say will happen in our own faith when we give to God? How has giving changed (or how could it change) your faith and attitude towards God?
7. We sometimes believe that God will not reward our giving or that we will somehow be left with our needs not being met. **Malachi 3:10** challenges us to test God with our tithe. Have you ever given more than you thought you could, yet still had God meet all your essential needs? Share your experience with the group.
8. As you consider your life and finances, what are the roadblocks to you giving generously to the Lord? Or, what are the roadblocks that you have overcome in order to give generously?
9. Consider all that you have. What is one thing that you could go without (cable, a second vehicle, vacation, or your daily coffee, etc.) so that you can give more fully to what the Lord is doing? How can the group encourage you and keep you accountable in this step?

MOVING FORWARD

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work...

(2 Corinthians 9:6–8)

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

(2 Corinthians 9:10–11)

BE SURE TO PRAY TOGETHER AS A GROUP...

__ What are some things going on in your life that need prayer?