

## Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 8:16 – 9:5. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you hear God say to you as you read it a few times to yourself? What do you find to be most important in this text? Why?
2. How does this passage fit in with the context about giving? What's the issue here? Why did Titus want to go to them?
3. What kind of person joined Titus to carry the offering? Why was it important that he be chosen by the churches? What were Paul's purposes in administering (managing) the offering in this way? What must we do in order to be trustworthy stewards of shared resources? If the church is sloppy in its stewardship, what happens to our witness to Christ? Do we need to be held to a different standard than the world?
4. God is a generous God & desires to bless us in ways we cannot imagine. What might prevent him from placing his abundance into our hands?
5. How had the Corinthians first responded to Paul's suggestion to make a relief offering for the Jerusalem church? (9:1-2) What effect did this have on the Macedonians? Why was Paul now sending Titus & the brothers to Corinth? Why was it important to prepare the offering in advance?
6. God wants people to be eager, enthusiastic & joyful about giving. What might encourage your heart toward those attitudes? How can we encourage each other to grow in those attitudes toward generosity?
7. Why is it important for us as a church to aim for the honourable, or excellent, in both our ministry goals AND practices? How is such a pursuit of excellence rooted in grace? How does it glorify God?
8. Why is it important to trust the integrity of church leaders during the budgeting & spending process?
9. Why is it important to exhibit love through financial generosity? In what ways have you seen financial giving be a proof of Christ's love in others? How is generosity of spirit **more than** a sense of financial open-handedness?
10. French Priest/author, Henri Nouwen wrote, "God's Kingdom is a place of abundance where every generous act overflows its original bounds & becomes part of the unbounded grace of God at work in the world." How have you seen that to be true in your own experience...where generosity has a knock-on effect?

# *Living Water Fellowship*

*17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*19<sup>th</sup> September 2021*

*COME TO JESUS*

## **SONG:**

*Speak O Lord*

*Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubRIJ8xkds>*

## **WELCOME and PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

### **PSALM 145:** *READ RESPONSIVELY*

<sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my God and King, and praise your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup> I will praise you every day; yes, I will praise you forever.

<sup>3</sup> **Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise!**

**No one can measure his greatness.**

<sup>4</sup> **Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts;  
let them proclaim your power.**

<sup>5</sup> I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendour and your wonderful miracles.

<sup>6</sup> Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness.

<sup>7</sup> **Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness;  
they will sing with joy about your righteousness.**

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD is merciful and compassionate,  
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation.

<sup>10</sup> All of your works will thank you, LORD, and your faithful followers will praise you.

<sup>11</sup> **They will speak of the glory of your kingdom;  
they will give examples of your power.**

<sup>12</sup> **They will tell about your mighty deeds  
and about the majesty and glory of your reign.**

<sup>13</sup> For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations.

**The LORD always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does**

*GROW IN HIS GRACE*

## **BIBLE READING:**

2 Corinthians 8:16 – 9:5

## **FAITH CHAT:**

1. Whom do you trust most with your money?
2. What precautions do you take when deciding to whom & how much to give?

**THE MESSAGE:** AUTHENTIC GENEROSITY: ADMINISTRATION OF GENEROSITY

**SONG:** All Creatures of our God and King

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSFK7UiH5Us>

**PRAYERS:**

Individuals are encouraged to pray for one another in their households & to include prayers for the wider Living Water family, the Wagga Wagga community, our nation and the world's leaders.

Individual households may also choose to celebrate Holy Communion after the online service concludes. Please feel free to do so. If you know the Words of Institution you simply say them as you would hear them in worship. If you aren't sure, then read aloud together Paul's recount of the celebration in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Then share the forgiveness, life and salvation Christ offers in his body and blood. The words "The body of Christ given for you" and "The blood of Christ shed for you" and appropriate elements are to be used as you celebrate together.

**The Communion:**

*Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen.**

*Worship Video during Communion: To The Table*

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLKRAVOKhdU>

*GO IN HIS POWER*

**BLESSING:**

**† (Name), child of God, may your integrity and transparent witness to Christ bring glory to God and abundant blessing to people!  
Amen.**

**Announcements:**

**SONG:** All Glory Be To Christ

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6P2R9aTAPI>

*SHOW HIS LOVE*

**2 CORINTHIANS 8:16 – 9:5**

**8:**<sup>16</sup> But thank God! He has given Titus the same enthusiasm for you that I have. <sup>17</sup>Titus welcomed our request that he visit you again. In fact, he himself was very eager to go & see you. <sup>18</sup>We are also sending another brother with Titus. All the churches praise him as a preacher of the Good News. <sup>19</sup>He was appointed by the churches to accompany us as we take the offering to Jerusalem - a service that glorifies the Lord & shows our eagerness to help.

<sup>20</sup>We are traveling together to guard against any criticism for the way we are handling this generous gift. <sup>21</sup>We are careful to be honourable before the Lord, but we also want everyone else to see that we are honourable.

<sup>22</sup>We are also sending with them another of our brothers who has proven himself many times & has shown on many occasions how eager he is. He is now even more enthusiastic because of his great confidence in you. <sup>23</sup>If anyone asks about Titus, say that he is my partner who works with me to help you. And the brothers with him have been sent by the churches, & they bring honour to Christ. <sup>24</sup>So show them your love, & prove to all the churches that our boasting about you is justified.

**9:**<sup>1</sup> I really don't need to write to you about this ministry of giving for the believers in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>For I know how eager you are to help, & I have been boasting to the churches in Macedonia that you in Greece were ready to send an offering a year ago. In fact, it was your enthusiasm that stirred up many of the Macedonian believers to begin giving.

<sup>3</sup>But I am sending these brothers to be sure you really are ready, as I have been telling them, & that your money is all collected. I don't want to be wrong in my boasting about you. <sup>4</sup>We would be embarrassed—not to mention your own embarrassment—if some Macedonian believers came with me & found that you weren't ready after all I had told them! <sup>5</sup>So I thought I should send these brothers ahead of me to make sure the gift you promised is ready. But I want it to be a willing gift, not one given grudgingly.