

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. 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. Read 2 Corinthians 8:9 again. No discussion or reflection how we grow as cheerful givers can be separated from celebrating that Jesus has made the first & highest gift for us. Given that...Why do you think Paul goes on at such great length about this financial gift for the churches in Jerusalem?
3. Explain the illustration in verse 6. What is the application to giving? Why does a farmer sow seeds? Is there ever a sowing with an expectation of crop failure? Why/not? How is "hope for joy" an element of every sowing?
4. How do sowing seeds in the ground & generous giving similarly require trust? How can our giving deepen our faith?
5. "Generous giving is a tangible expression of our trust in God." Reflect on that statement. Do you agree or disagree? Why? If generous giving (in its varied forms) isn't that, what is it?
6. What is meant by giving "reluctantly or under compulsion"? Give examples when you have given under those circumstances? Contrast that with giving "cheerfully." What made the difference?
7. How are our blessings like seed (v 10)? Who supplies it, & what happens when we use it properly?
8. What does this passage list as the outcomes or fruit of Christian generosity? What words & illustrations are used to describe the attitude about giving that God honours? What is God's purpose in providing the giver everything he or she needs?
9. What relationship did Paul anticipate resulting between givers & receivers? What did he anticipate would happen in all of them as their generosity multiplied & had a larger widening impact?
10. How do we balance giving cheerfully rather than under compulsion (v 7) with the need for obedience as an expression of our faith in Christ (v 13)? What will this look like in practice?

A prayer for generosity:

"I thank God who has blessed me in all ways, at all times,
with more than I need. Lead me to live generously, share
joyfully, and look expectantly toward the future God will give.
Through Jesus Christ...Amen."

Living Water Fellowship

18th Sunday after Pentecost

26th September 2021

COME TO JESUS

SONG:

Stand in Your Love (Bethel Music) CCLI 384660

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

WELCOME and PRAYER OF THE DAY:

PSALM 65: *READ RESPONSIVELY*

¹What mighty praise, O God, belongs to you...

We will fulfill our vows to you, ²for you answer our prayers. All of us must come to you.

³ Though we are overwhelmed by our sins, you forgive them all.

⁴ What joy for those you choose to bring near, those who live in your holy courts...

⁵You faithfully answer our prayers with awesome deeds, O God our Saviour.
You are the hope of everyone on earth, even those who sail on distant seas.:

**⁸ Those who live at the ends of the earth stand in awe of your wonders.
From where the sun rises to where it sets, you inspire shouts of joy.**

⁹You take care of the earth & water it, making it rich & fertile.

The river of God has plenty of water; it provides a bountiful harvest of grain,
for you have ordered it so.

**¹⁰ You drench the ploughed ground with rain,
melting the clods & levelling the ridges.**

You soften the earth with showers & bless its abundant crops.

¹¹ You crown the year with a bountiful harvest.

The hard pathways overflow with abundance.

¹²The grasslands of the wilderness become a lush pasture. The hillsides blossom with joy.

¹³The meadows are clothed with flocks of sheep, & the valleys are carpeted with grain.

They all shout & sing for joy!

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING:

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (NIV)

FAITH CHAT:

1. What would happen if no one ever gave generously?
2. What do you think it means to be a cheerful giver? How does that happen in someone?

SONG: *Great Are You Lord* (All Sons & Daughters) CCLI 384660
Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCH1e3JgBjk>

THE MESSAGE: *AUTHENTIC GENEROSITY: MULTIPLICATION OF GENEROSITY*

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: If We are the Body (Casting Crowns) CCLI 384660

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1kraMvBUd4>

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

**† (Name), child of God, may joy in Christ be multiplied in you!
Amen.**

Announcements:

SONG: *Christ Be All Around Me* (All Sons & Daughters) CCLI 384660
Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1kraMvBUd4>

SHOW HIS LOVE

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ As it is written:

"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!