

# Joyful Life Bible Studies

## II CORINTHIANS 8:1-24

Lesson 14

### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review II Corinthians 7:1-16. What particularly blessed or ministered to you from last week's lesson or lecture?
2. In II Corinthians 8 Paul turned his attention to a new subject, which he referred to as the *grace of giving*. This portion of scripture gives us the most comprehensive instruction in the Bible on this practical subject. The examples, guidelines and principles in this week's lesson should inspire, motivate and enable us to *abound in this grace also*. Read II Corinthians 8. Consider the greatest example of giving as you print verse 9 here phrase by phrase.
  - a. Share your initial response to this.
3. Prepare your heart and mind for your study of II Corinthians 8 by writing a prayer. Include any specific requests you may have in relationship to your lesson. Write your prayer here.

*Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.  
Lead me in Your truth and teach me,  
for You are the God of my salvation;  
on You I wait all the day.*

Psalm 25:4,5 NKJV

**SECOND DAY:** Read II Corinthians 8:1-5

1. Knowing the background for II Corinthians 8 will give us a better understanding of the verses in our study this week. In chapter eight Paul addressed the issue of collecting money for the poor Christians living in Jerusalem. Summarize what the following verses reveal about this:
  - a. Romans 15:25,26
  - b. I Corinthians 16:1-3
  
2. In II Corinthians 8:1-5 Paul informed the Corinthians about the *churches of Macedonia*, citing their example of giving. Read verse 1 NIV: *And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.* Write what you learn about the Macedonian Christians from the following verses. Use other versions, if you desire.
  - a. verse 2
  - b. verse 3 (The word *power* here means *ability*.)
  - c. verse 4
  - d. verse 5
  - e. How would you describe their attitude in giving?
  
3. The phrase from II Corinthians 8:4b *fellowship of the ministering to the saints* in the TLB is *share in the joy of helping the Christians in Jerusalem.* What do you think the relationship is between *giving* and *joy*?
  
4. Read II Corinthians 8:5 once more. What did *they* do *first*?
  - a. Consider why it is important to first give yourself to the Lord. Share your thoughts.

*Though they have been going through much trouble and hard times,  
their wonderful joy and deep poverty have overflowed in rich generosity.  
... they gave not only what they could afford but far more. And they did it of their own free will.  
They begged us again and again for the gracious privilege of sharing  
in the gift for the Christians in Jerusalem.*

II Corinthians 8:2-4 NLT

**THIRD DAY:** Read II Corinthians 8:6-9

1. Paul hoped the generosity of the Macedonian Christians would encourage and motivate the Corinthian believers to follow through on their giving to help the church in Jerusalem. Read II Corinthians 8:6-8. When Titus delivered this letter he was also asked to speak to them about their offering. Observe this in verse 6 NLT: *So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to complete your share in this ministry of giving.* What did Paul say to the Corinthians in verse 7?

a. The word *grace* is the Greek word *charis* which can be translated *grace* or *gift*. Give a brief explanation for the phrase *abound in this grace also*.

2. Paul was not commanding or putting pressure on them to give, but rather was identifying giving as a test of love. Think about this as you fill in the blanks from II Corinthians 8:8c:

*and to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_.*

a. In what way is giving a proof of love? Use I John 3:17,18 to help with your answer.

3. Selah - pause and think about II Corinthians 8:9 and the supreme example of giving. What do you *know* from verse 9?

a. Choose one phrase from verse 9 and briefly explain what it means.

b. *For your sakes* reveals the reason for the Lord's incredible sacrifice. How does this minister to you today?

c. *So that you through His poverty might become rich* (verse 9c NIV). List a few of the riches that are yours in Christ.

4. How does our Lord's gift of love speak to you about sharing what you have with those in need?

5. There are many ways of giving in addition to financial giving. As Christians we recognize that all we have belongs to the Lord. In light of this how can you give of your time, abilities and possessions?

**FOURTH DAY:** Read II Corinthians 8:10-15

1. Observe Paul's exhortation to the Corinthian believers in II Corinthians 8:10,11 NLT: *I suggest that you finish what you started a year ago, for you were the first to propose this idea, and you were the first to begin doing something about it. Now you should carry this project through to completion just as enthusiastically as you began it. Give whatever you can according to what you have. Summarize what he said.*
  
2. II Corinthians 8:11,12 provide key principles for Christian giving. What are they?
  - a. verse 11a
  
  - b. verse 11b
  
  - c. verse 12
    - (1.) With this verse in mind read Luke 21:1-4. What lesson do you find in this illustration?
      - (a.) How should this example and II Corinthians 8:12 comfort those who have very little to give?
  
3. Read II Corinthians 8:13-15. Pastor Chuck says: *Paul sought a balance between those who had an abundance and those who had need in the church.* What does this imply about giving and receiving?
  
4. Ponder the Lord's declaration as you record Acts 20:35b here.
  - a. How have you experienced this?
  
  - b. The principle of giving is so vital that we don't want to miss the opportunity to teach it to our children. Share a practical way of doing this.

*Give, and it will be given to you:  
good measure, pressed down, shaken together,  
and running over will be put into your bosom.  
For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.*  
Luke 6:38 NKJV

**FIFTH DAY:** Read II Corinthians 8:16-24

1. To avoid any blame and to maintain a high level of accountability with the Lord's money, Paul planned to use Titus and two unnamed Christian brothers to carry the gift to the Jerusalem church. Observe this as you read II Corinthians 8:16-24. Jot down one or two discoveries about:
  - a. *Titus* (verses 16,17,23)
  
  - b. *the brother* (verses 18,19,23)
  
  - c. *our brother* (verse 22,23)
  
2. Consider II Corinthians 8:20,21 TLB: *By traveling together we will guard against any suspicion, for we are anxious that no one should find fault with the way we are handling this large gift. God knows we are honest, but I want everyone else to know it too. That is why we have made this arrangement. In what way would this plan safeguard both the gift and the reputation of Paul and his companions?*
  - a. Complete this sentence: If honesty *in the sight of the Lord and men* were practiced today in Christian ministry \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. What did Paul encourage the Christians in Corinth to do? Answer from II Corinthians 8:24.
  - a. Recall how Paul addressed them in II Corinthians 6:13. With this in mind read verse 24 once more. In what way does this sound like a father?

*Do things in such a way that everyone  
can see you are honorable.*  
Romans 12:17b NLT

**SIXTH DAY:** Review II Corinthians 8:1-24

1. What have you learned from II Corinthians 8:1-24 that will help you *abound in the grace of giving*?
  
2. Recall and record one or two principles or instructions on giving from your study this week.
  - a. Restate the prerequisite for giving from II Corinthians 8:5.
  
3. Through your lesson this week how have you been:
  - a. inspired
  
  - b. motivated
  
  - c. challenged
  
4. Review II Corinthians 8:9 once more. How does this incredible truth minister to you?
  - a. In response to this write a prayer expressing your thanksgiving to the Lord.

*Give thanks with a grateful heart.  
Give thanks to the Holy One.  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.  
And now let the poor say I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks.  
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