

June 14th, 2026

Sermon: The Open Hand | Generosity Brings Life

Main text: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION REFLECTIONS & QUESTIONS...

Key Reflections/Quotes:

Three Marks of a Gospel-Shaped Steward

Sow Deeply

- Generously invest in God's kingdom.
- Trust God with the results.
- Generosity reflects faith in God's provision.

Be a "Hilarious" Giver

- The Greek word translated "cheerful" is *hilaros* (root of "hilarious").
- God desires joyful, eager generosity rather than reluctant obligation.
- Giving is participation in God's grace, not merely fulfilling a duty.

Abound in Grace

- Grace is not only something we receive.
- Grace becomes the power that enables us to bless others.
- True understanding of grace naturally produces generosity.

Biblical Sufficiency vs. Cultural Self-Sufficiency

- The world often defines contentment as independence from others.
- Paul teaches that true sufficiency comes from God's grace.
- Christian abundance leads to interdependence within the Body of Christ, not isolation.

Generosity Is Evidence of Spiritual Health

"When churches are not spiritual, they are not generous." (Warren Wiersbe)

- Generosity is a fruit of gospel transformation.
- A lack of generosity may reveal areas where Christ's lordship has not fully penetrated our hearts.

Key Quotes:

"It's not about getting something from us; it's about freeing us from something."

"The issue wasn't money. The issue was what their response revealed about their hearts."

"Grace is favor shown because of favor received."

"We are not owners. We are managers of what already belongs to God."

"Sometimes we forget that actually, we win."

"May the gospel sink so deep into your heart and mind that it transforms you into someone who is more generous and more willing to share your life and resources."

Key Questions:

1. When you honestly evaluate your life, do your decisions reflect that everything belongs to God, or are there areas you still consider exclusively your own?
2. How has your understanding of God's grace shaped (or failed to shape) your generosity toward others?
3. Why do you think Paul viewed the Corinthians' unwillingness to give as a spiritual issue rather than merely a financial one? **(Please Read Corinthians 9: 6-8)**
4. What is the difference between the world's idea of self-sufficiency and Paul's vision of sufficiency through God's grace? How have you seen each influence your own thinking?
5. What would it look like for you to become a "hilarious giver" in this season of life not only financially, but with your time, gifts, hospitality, and relationships? **(Please Read Cor. 9:7-8).**
6. Where might God be inviting you to "sow deeply" in His kingdom right now, and what fears or obstacles make that difficult?
7. How can our small group collectively participate in God's mission and generosity in a tangible way over the next month?

We encourage you to close in prayer, asking God to deepen your understanding of His grace and to cultivate joyful, kingdom-minded generosity.