

Warm Up Activity!

Choose the multiple-choice questions OR the Jumble and pursue as a group. Have fun!

1. Which country is ranked the most charitable¹?
 - a. United States
 - b. Poland
 - c. Indonesia
 - d. United Kingdom
2. How much did individual Americans donate in 2023²?
 - a. \$557 billion
 - b. \$374 billion
 - c. \$327 billion
 - d. \$915 million
3. Which group gave 26% of total giving in 2020³?
 - a. Greatest Generation
 - b. Generation X
 - c. Baby Boomers
 - d. Millennials


Discuss: The answers are at the bottom of Page 2. Did the results surprise you? If so, what were you expecting?

Grace Fellowship
JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

C A G E R					
S L E B S					
T U R I F					
R H O O N					

BAH HUMBUG!



JACOB NEVER CALLED EBENEZER THIS!

Now arrange the circled letters to form the answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Read and Discuss God's Word

1. Share with the group the most meaningful gift you ever received.
 - a. Who gave you the gift and why was it meaningful?
 - b. What did this gift say about the motivations and generosity of the giver?
2. In Acts 20:35, Paul quotes Jesus as saying, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* What does this say about God's character?
3. Read aloud 2 Corinthians 8:1 to 9:5.
4. In verses 8:1 to 8:5, Paul appeals to the Corinth believers to give to the poor Christians in Jerusalem by praising the radical generosity of the poverty-stricken Macedonian churches at Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea.
 - a. What does this say about the motivations of the Macedonian Christians?
 - b. Why do you think these motivations would please God?
5. According to [John Piper](#), the action of the Macedonian church demonstrates that *"Love is the overflow of joy in the grace of God that meets the needs of others."*

¹ [World Giving Index for 2024](#)

² [Giving USA](#)

³ [Nonprofit Research](#)

- a. What do you think Piper means by the “grace of God”?
 - b. Why should this amazing grace cause an overflow of joy and result in our meeting the needs of others?
6. In verse 3, Paul writes that the Macedonian church “...gave according to their means... and beyond their means...and of their own accord...”
- a. What does “according to their means” imply?
 - b. How about “beyond their means”?
 - c. What does “giving of their own accord” mean?
 - d. Why do you think their radical generosity pleased God?
7. In verse 8, what does Paul mean by the phrase “your love is also genuine”?
8. In verse 9, Paul states that Jesus was rich but became poor for your sake, so that you might become rich. What did Paul mean by you becoming rich?
9. In verses 8:10 to 9:5, Paul explains that he is sending Titus and company. It seems that the Corinthian church needed encouragement to fulfill their year-old promise to give to the church in Jerusalem. In 2 Cor 9:4, what are Paul’s stated motivations for sending the Titus delegation?
10. Finally, a potentially challenging question: Should your giving be contingent upon receiving an income tax write-off? Why or why not?

Live it Out!

In summary, 2 Cor 8:1 to 9:5 provides a model for Christian giving: Believers receive God’s grace—accomplished on the cross at Calvary—and with overflowing joy in the knowledge of eternal life with God, willfully and cheerfully give to others in need according to and beyond our means. This demonstrates that our faith, love, and hope is truly in Christ.

This week, in your interactions with others, remember what Jesus achieved by his epic act of love and when you discern the Holy Spirit giving you a ‘holy nudge’, share your gifts and talents with a generous heart.

Closing: A Prayer of Giving*

I have nothing but you, O Jesus. Teach me to treasure you above all things and when I give to others, I give not what is mine but what is already yours. Help me make each offering without the thought of earthly gain and may I invest your resources in your good works. Use every small gift for works of love and mercy that make your name great and help me to **Never Give Up on Generosity!**

*Adapted from *Every Moment Holy* by D.K. McKelvey, 2019. Rabbit Room Press, Nashville, TN

Answer Key
QUESTIONS: (1) c. Indonesia #1; USA #6, UK #22, and Poland #142; (2) b. \$374 billion; including other sources, total giving was \$574 billion; (3) a. Greatest Generation. JUMBLES: GRACE, BLESS, FRUIT, HONOR, GENEROUS