

Generosity

Note to group leaders: please don't feel you have to plough through all the questions. Pick and choose! The aim is to have a focused discussion on the Kingdom value of Generosity, do try and include the last question.

As an icebreaker share your stories about God providing for you or your family in financial ways.

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:1-15.

Money is important in our lives, and our attitude towards money and our handling of money is part of our **discipleship** and **worship** of God.

When I worked in Cambodia complete strangers and people I had just met would always ask 3 questions. Are you married? How many children do you have? How much money do you earn? Quite intimidating questions for Brits - we ask where do you live? what is your job? and make some comment about the weather! However it is good to have an honest discussion about money and finances, even if we feel uncomfortable.

- What did God speak to you about personally on Sunday? What have you learnt about money over the last 2 weeks from 2 Corinthians 8 & 9? What has surprised you and challenged you?
- Money was an idol in the church at Corinth. See also Hebrews 13:5 Why do you think it is important to handle our personal finances well as disciples? What are your financial priorities, are these biblical?
- We can feel a pressure (subtle or otherwise) from other people to give towards God's work. Identify godly motives and godly attitudes in your giving, start with 2 Corinthians 9:7.

Jesus spoke about money. Take a look at some of these verses and see what you can learn.

Matthew 6:1-4

How does this square with the Corinthians Church having a very 'public' collection for the poor? Do you give to the poor on top of regularly giving to the church, what do you think about this?

Matthew 6:19-21

What is at the heart of what Jesus is teaching here? If you have extra money is it wrong to have savings, to 'lay up treasure on earth', to buy a house? What are your thoughts about possessions, savings and investments/ethical investments?

Luke 12:13-21

It what ways can we be rich and generous or rich towards God?

- Apart from money, what other gifts do you have with which you can show generosity towards God, the family of God and those who don't yet know Jesus?
- How am I going to put into practice what I have learnt about the Kingdom value of generosity?

Pray for each other that we become a generous people who are hilarious (cheerful) givers of all that God has given to us.