



CURRENT

session page

Too Much? Too Little?

2 Corinthians 8:1-15 | Session 10.26

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- - Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Thoroughly review all the referenced resources for this session in advance.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media)

Context

Share the video of a man seeing how people react to his asking for money and ask:

- - What stands out about the people this young man comes in contact with?
- - What characteristics do you notice about those that don't give versus those that offer money or empathy?
- - If this video happened to feature you at some point, what do you think we'd see and why?
- - In what ways do we tend to tie our attitude toward money to faith - for good or bad?

- - What else might people have offered to do for this person and how might he have replied?
- - How do you think this video would have gone if it was filmed at your church on a Sunday morning?

Content

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, and watch the Bible Background Video. Ask:

- - What most stands out to you about the way Paul talks about the Macedonian church here and why?
- - Exactly what are the readers of this passage expected to "excel" at, and how would they know when they did?
- - What does "I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others" mean?
- - Noting that Paul states that "your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means," how do you balance giving with eagerness for ministry? To what degree are the two tied together?
- - It is said that you can tell what a church's priorities are by what their discussions are focused on and there they allocate their budget, which is a direct reflection of Jesus' words in Matthew 6:21. Why do you think that is so?
- - If "it is a gift to be able to give," what could congregations be doing - other than asking for money - in order to better share this gift?

Closure

Share this story of a televangelist who made national headlines asking his followers to donate money so he could purchase a plane and ask:

- - How do you feel when you encounter such stories and why?
 - - In what ways do this man's message and actions compare to the way people read Paul in this passage?
 - - What do you think actions such as this say to people about Christianity?
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- - How might we move beyond focusing on money as a means to encourage people to participate in reaching the world?
 - - Where can we find people who need help in our communities and what should we do when we find them?

Close by listening together to Listen to Give It Away and praying that God can guide us on how to best use our resources.

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