



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.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).

Context

Start by asking:

- - What would the people who know well you say you are most passionate about and why?
- - What do you really care about, but keep private?
- - To what degree does our use of money define where our priorities lie?
- - What might our use of our money – both our giving and the ways we spend it – say about our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus?

Content

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

- - What is significant about the giving of the Macedonian churches?
- - How have they given, and in what circumstances?
- - When have you ever been so excited to give to something that you would beg for the privilege of giving?
- - In what way can giving to others be a privilege for people of faith?
- - How does Jesus provide an example for us, not just of giving, but of how we relate to the things we have or don't have?
- - Why especially can people of faith give generously when there is a need, according to Paul?
- - To what degree is it as easy to receive when you are in need, as it is to give when someone else is in need and why?

Closure

Continue by asking:

- - When have you seen or heard someone ask for giving in manipulative or exploitative ways?
- - How did their "patter" compare to what Paul said in this passage?
- - What's the difference between their requests and Paul's request here?
- - In what ways does giving, especially in the midst of need, express our faith in God and in God's work in other believers?
- - How can we move beyond a mindset that focuses on requests for funding to one that focuses on giving people the gift of participation in ministry?

Close with prayer.

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