

1. If all your needs were taken care of and you had extra resources for you to use however you see fit, what would you use those resources for?
2. When you think of the word “generosity”, what comes to mind? Share an experience that has help shape how you define this word.
3. In 2 Corinthians 9:1-15 Paul is addressing a situation where Christians in Corinth committed to giving a generous gift to the church in Jerusalem, but a year later they have not followed through with it. Their hearts were stirred, but concrete action didn’t follow. In what ways can you relate to this experience of being stirred by God to do something, but then it stalls out?
4. The question for most of us is not whether or not we will choose to live generosity, but whether we will do so with joy. but Paul seeks to encourage them so that if they choose to fulfill the pledge, they would do so without feeling any pressure. His hope is that their giving would be marked by joy. Describe an experience of giving during which you felt deep joy. What was going on in your soul that helped foster that joy?
5. In this text Paul contrasts cheerful giving with giving that is done grudgingly. He touches upon the fact that it was possible for them to choose to fulfill their pledge, yet do it in a grudging manner. In the original language, the word “grudge” is quite powerful, meaning to “exploit, to have a hunger for power, greedy”. What Paul is revealing is that it’s possible to give externally, yet internally have our hearts gripped by greed. In this state, though we are giving to others, which is a good thing to do, our hearts are remaining unchanged.
6. When you think of the word “greed” what comes to mind? Is there an experience that defines that word for you?
7. Considering ourselves as greedy is an admission we are slow to admit. Greed is such an ugly attribute that we would prefer to never be associated with that characteristic, but the bad news is that greed infects us all. Whether we are greedy for attention, for money, power, comfort or host of other things, greed is present in our souls far more than perhaps we are aware. As you consider your definition of greed, ask yourself how do you fit your definition of greed? Is your definition broad enough to include you or does it exonerate you?
8. According to this text, what should the promise of God to provide all our needs lead us to do?
9. Share your prayer requests with 2-3 people.