

TAKEAWAY

How to give and be glad you did

DESIRED OUTCOMES

To see that God wants us to give for our own good

To think practically and clearly about how we use money and why

SHARE

Who is the most generous person you know? Why do you think they are so generous?

What factors do you reckon make a person *more* or *less* generous?

READ

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Try both the NIV and The Message versions

EXPLAIN

This was originally written by Paul ahead of a visit to Corinth. He was collecting money for the church in Jerusalem, which had experienced a terrible famine. His appeal for money had a practical purpose, but Paul speaks less about that and more about what happens in the hearts of the Corinthian church.

DISCUSS

If God is generous, and gives to us regardless of whether we give ourselves, why would we bother giving?

What is the point of sacrificial giving?

How as a church or group can we talk about generosity without simply pressuring one another to give more?

What are some ways to do this healthily?

How does generosity affect the people who are on the receiving end of it?

How would you say, in your own words, Paul motivates people to give in this passage? What stands out to you?

What sort of things might make it harder for a person to give cheerfully? How can these things be overcome?

Why are people often uncomfortable talking about money? What is lost when we don't talk about it?

Do you have any examples of God providing unexpectedly for you? Please share if so!

If generosity is not just about 'giving to church', how does church fit in? Should we always give to the church we're part of? Why or why not?

PRAY

Pray and thank God for how He provides, say sorry for where you have stewarded money poorly or been selfish or untrusting, and ask Him for wisdom and faith as you consider giving.

TRY OUT

The church Gift Day is coming. Share how you can prepare for it.

- Review your giving – how will you steward your own giving? – use the budget guide in the *Church, God and Giving Guide*: maybridge.org.uk/taekaways
- Over the next few weeks, log how much you spend and give – take note of how God provides what you need when you need it. Thank God for His generosity and provision. Reflect on how you can be generous to others.