



Going Deeper Questions  
Grace and Generosity  
Brynn Harrington

**Sermon Scripture Passage**

2 Corinthians 8:1-10

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**Fun icebreaker question**

What is the funniest thing you've ever spent money on that you regret?

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**Discipleship Cycle: Debrief & Interpret**

Take a moment to reflect on the Advent season. How did you experience Christ this Christmas?

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**Quick Review: What stood out to you from this week's passage?**

Looking back at your notes from this week's passage and sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

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**My Story**

- 1) Review the cultural context of the sermon this week. What was the Patron-Client relationship?
  - 2) How would you define "grace" in our modern context? What about in the ancient Corinthian context?
  - 3) How would Paul define grace in this passage?
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## **Dive Deeper**

1) If you've been part of the church in the past, how have you been taught about money, generosity, and giving in previous church experiences? What has been helpful for you about what you've been taught? What has not been helpful?

2) Lots of us have been given "rules" about giving. Why have rules historically been so attractive to Christians when it comes to how we give? What happens when we reduce generosity to a set of rules?

3) Take another look at 2 Cor. 8:9. Take a moment to unpack that verse when it comes to why we give.

4) What is the importance of giving of our finances and resources to the church and other ministries? Why does our giving matter to the community? How does giving affect our spiritual lives and our relationship with God?

5) Pastor Brynn also talked about receiving from the Church as a part of our worship. How is receiving what others give part of grace and generosity?

6) What questions do you have about giving? What barriers do we face in our modern day to giving?

7) In the sermon, Pastor Brynn quoted Sophocles as he described the ancient Greek culture as Paul would have known it: "Grace gives birth to grace." What does that look like when it comes to giving in the church? What does "grace giving birth to grace" look like in your life?

8) What happens in our lives when we give? What happens in our lives when we don't give?

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## **Discipleship Cycle: Respond Actively**

In the sermon, Pastor Brynn talked about a student who gave \$10.13 every

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week. Even though it seemed like a small gift compared with others, his gift covered the cost of coffee for newcomers every week as they met with the pastors. What is a small gift you can give this week that can have a big impact in someone's life? Perhaps you could buy a cup of coffee or soup for someone in need, pay for someone else's gas at the gas station, or donate a winter coat you no longer need.

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### **A special question for couples and families**

Many of us have automated our giving these days (which is great!) But that means the kids and teens in our church don't get a chance to see their grown-ups give on a regular basis. How can we teach our kids to give through how we model giving as parents and caregivers? What are some helpful practices we can introduce as families that teach our children about the importance and joy of giving?

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