

# Weekly Study Guide

The Week of October 28, 2012

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## Daily Readings

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Monday	Matthew 7:13-14	Tuesday	2 Corinthians 8:1-5	Wednesday	2 Corinthians 8:6-15
Thursday	2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5	Friday	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Saturday	Mark 14:3-9

*My notes on this week's readings...*

## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week's message:** *The Priesthood of All Believers*

**Next week's readings:** Jeremiah 31:33-35; 1 Peter 1:4-10; John 5:13-15

We learned this week about the power of the gospel to create generous hearts. When our Trail Markers series continues next week, we learn another important Biblical lesson from Christians who have gone before us: God calls all of his children to represent Christ to one another and not just a special class. Join us next week to learn about "the priesthood of all believers."



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# Group Discussion

Connect

What are the best and worst things you've ever heard about money in a church?

Learn

There are lots of stories in the Bible that contain parts of Jesus' teaching about money or encounters with financial decisions. The details of the stories can vary quite a bit. Read Matthew 19:16-30; Luke 19:1-10; Mark 12:41-44; and Mark 14:3-9.

- What are the significant differences in these stories?
- Do you see anything important that unites these stories?

One of the fullest descriptions of sharing, giving, and generosity in the New Testament churches is found in 2 Corinthians 8-9. In these chapters the apostle Paul is encouraging the church in Corinth to participate in a special collection from the churches in the west to be sent back to the church in Jerusalem as that region has come under famine. Work through part of this passage together as a group, paying attention to the various motivations for generosity.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. (The "Macedonian churches" were in the northern part of Greece. Philippi and Thessalonica were in Macedonia. Corinth was a church in Achaia, the southern part of Greece.)

- What is important about the generosity of the Macedonian churches in these verses?
- What do you think of the Bible's use of this comparison? Under what conditions would sharing this kind of information be helpful (or even safe)?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:6-9.

- Verse 6 calls this giving an "act of grace." How is this a fitting description?
- Verse 9 reminds the Corinthians that they know the pattern of Christ's life. How do you think this statement is meant to be heard? Does it use guilt as a motivation ("You know what Christ did, now do your part")? What else might it mean?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:10-12

- Verse 10 mentions the desire to give. Verse 12 says that "willingness" matters more than the size of the gift. Where does such desire and willingness come from? Is this like or unlike what you read first in the four stories from Jesus life?

Apply

In response to reading the Bible today:

- What about your handling of money seems most consistent with what you've read?
- What is an area where you need to take steps of growth?

Pray

Read 2 Corinthians 8:13-15 to guide your prayers. Pray that God will meet the needs of those who have little, and pray that God's people will help answer to answer these prayers.