

# **Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Jan 21, 2018**

**“How To Be Deliriously Happy” Pastor Hook 8:15, Pastor Temple 9:30, 10:55**

## **2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

**<sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written:**

**“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”**

**<sup>10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.**

**<sup>12</sup> This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup> Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. <sup>14</sup> And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**

**Leader’s Tip:** Please discuss the “Getting Started” questions below with the group and then read aloud the scriptures in the left margin. As you go through the discussion questions below, know that it is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

### **Getting Started (10-15 min)**

- Is there anything that came up this past week in regards to the witness or application points from the last meeting that you would like to share?
- The “Give It Up For God” series continues this week with a focus on generosity in the message “How to be Deliriously Happy.” What is one lesson about money, you can recall learning from your parents?

### **Review the Sermon (20 min)**

- If you were tasked to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- In the scripture passage in the margin, what do you believe the seed that is sown represents?
- Verse 7 suggests that the heart behind the gift, matters as much to God as the gift itself. How can giving be “good medicine” for the heart when it is over attached to the security that we believe money can bring?
- How do generosity and financial planning and responsibility fit together?
- How is giving contagious? How does it reflect God’s grace? (see verses 12-13)
- Do you think the main message of the Chronicles passage on the back page is, “It is not about giving it away, but giving it back?” How does this perspective offer a cheerful, or “hilarious” (ilaros) heart behind the gift (vs. 7)?
- Verse 10 suggests that the result from our giving is a harvest of righteousness, not necessarily more income. Who is it who receives this harvest, the giver or the receiver? How would you describe God’s economy of righteousness of His kingdom?

## **1 Chronicles 29:11-14**

**Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.**

**<sup>12</sup> Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.**

**<sup>13</sup> Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.**

**<sup>14</sup> “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.**

**Prayer from last Thursday’s devotional, *God’s Wisdom for Navigating Life*, by Timothy Keller**

**“Lord, I earned my money through the capacities and opportunities that all came from you. Help me to see my time, money and social connections as given to me by you for the good of those around me. This will be hard, because my culture makes me think I’m poor and don’t owe anyone else. Don’t let me believe that. Amen.”**

**“It is not how much we give, it is how much love we put into giving.”  
-Mother Teresa**

## **Personalize the Sermon (20 min)**

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon?
- Does it surprise you that 1/3 of Jesus’ parables in the Bible dealt with money? Why or why not?
- Do you agree with the statement that what we spend our money on is a reflection on what we think is important? Why or why not?
- Where or when have you experienced great joy from financial giving?
- Does the prayer in the margin from the devotional this week, capture challenges of giving that you have experienced? How so?

## **Apply the Sermon (15 min)**

- Pastor Temple said that “sowing seeds never guaranties a crop, but that if we sow nothing, we will have nothing.”
- Do you agree with the statement about tithing, “90% with God > 100% without God?” If you are not currently tithing, have you considered steps you can take this year to move in that direction?
- In responding to Paul’s advice in verse 7, have you decided in your heart what you should give to God and God’s work in 2018?

## **Witness & Prayer Concerns From The Group, (15 min)**

- Verse 13 in 2 Corinthians 9, points out that when generosity accompanies our “confession of Christ” that a movement of witness can spread and be encouraged in others. How do you see the relationship between our stewardship and our witness for Christ?
- What prayer concerns or joys would you care to share with your group this week?