

groups

Study Group: Participant Guide
Intro to 1 & 2 Thessalonians – September 14th-20th

CHECK-IN

An opportunity to show authentic community as we **share the struggles** and **celebrate the victories** we've experienced in the last week.

STUDY

Main Topics:

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

- How is it possible to have an abundance of joy and generosity amidst trials? (see Leader Notes)
- Why don't we need to be afraid of giving "beyond our means" as the Macedonian churches did? (see Leader notes)
- How does Jesus make us rich? (see Leader Notes)
- Why is everything we own ultimately God's?
 - What are some ways we act/live like this is not true?
 - How does this change your understanding of whole-life generosity?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

- How are giving and generosity often misunderstood?
- Why is it important for generosity to be authentic?

APPLY

- How did God speak to you on Sunday?
- Pastor Bill said, "Want to know one of the short books of the Bible? Read it twenty times." What can we learn from this?
 - Have you ever tried it?
- Have you ever experienced or seen any examples of someone who had great joy amidst trials?
- What typically prevents you from being generous?
- Last week we talked about the cost of following Jesus. Part of that cost is radically giving to others. How is God leading you to give in a radical way moving forward?
- What did Pastor Bill mean when he said we need to pursue *people* during this season leading up to the election? (see Leader Notes)
- How can you pursue people well for the next 9 weeks?

CLOSE

What can we learn about God from these passages? How should it change the way that you pray, think, speak or act this week?