

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

HERE & NOW | PART 4

DISCUSS

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

- What traits and actions describe the churches in Macedonia? How does their example inspire or challenge you personally?
- Despite going through a severe trial, these believers were filled with “abundant joy” and even begged for the privilege to give. Where do you think their joy came from? Have you experienced that same thing firsthand?
- Think of a time of severe trial in your life, whether in the past or right now. What could abundant joy look like in these seasons? What could generosity look like?
- Verse 5 says that the first action of these believers was to “give themselves to the Lord.” In your life, what do you give yourself to first? What reasons or excuses keep you from giving yourself first to God?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:6-9

- What words are used to describe the type of giving we’re called to? Do you view giving this way? How do you usually think of or approach it?
- What does verse 9 tell you about Jesus? What are you particularly thankful for when it comes to the sacrifice He made, giving up everything for you?

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- The word grace is repeated twice in these verses - “gracious act of giving” and “generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Why does grace matter so much? How does the radical grace of Jesus influence or change your position on giving, particularly when it comes to your time, talent, and treasure?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:6-9

- Paul urges the church at Corinth to follow through on the commitment they made previously. He wants them to stay committed to what they had the desire to do a year ago. Do you find it easy or hard to stay committed to the things you’ve said you would do? What tends to make your eagerness or commitment dwindle?
- Another thing Paul urges is to give from what we DO have, not from what we DON’T. Have you ever held off from giving because you’re waiting for a “better season”? How do these verses challenge you to approach giving differently?
- All the verses we’ve read today point to the position God holds in your life. Is He first, or does He hold a position behind something else? Answer this question honestly with your group. What do you know about God and His character that compels you to acknowledge Him as first? What step is He calling you to take in this area, no matter what position you find yourself in right now?

REFLECT

Reflect on what you just discussed. What is God prompting you to do next so that He can do a work in you? How about through you? Share your next step with your group, including when you’ll do it, and write it in your HERE & NOW Series Guide (pages 68-69).

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PRAY

As we come to the end of the HERE & NOW series, spend some time praying together as a group. Pray for God to awaken you to the urgency of this moment in time and the role that you play in bringing light into a dark world. Ask God to first do a work in you so that He can work through you and our church to advance God's Kingdom.

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