



LC STUDY GUIDE
“Find Your Go!” Series
2 Corinthians 9:6-8
 January 23 – February 4

Intro: The “Next: Find Your Go!” series is helping us to understand what it looks like to build the Kingdom of Jesus and change the spiritual landscape of Greater Boston.

In today’s study, we want to begin by reading 2 Corinthians 9 to appreciate the context and we’ll focus on three key verses. We particularly want to unpack the need and the good that happens when we grow in becoming joyful givers.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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.

O – What do you find personally compelling in Paul’s words to the Corinthian church?

I – Scripture verses such as 6-8 have been used by both the insincere for ungodly purposes and the righteous for the sake of the Kingdom. What promise of God is Paul articulating? How can we as Christ-followers ensure to guard that promise?

(Paul is teaching that our generosity given with joy is the response that God desires of us as it reflects His past and future generosity, as well as His promise to provide abundantly for our needs and for the work we are called to.)

I – Let’s pause on Paul’s point on being a “joyful giver.” Why is Paul so concerned for Christ-followers to receive this teaching?

(Giving out of joy confronts our consumer mentality, releases us from the control and anxieties attached to money, and allows our heart to receive happiness that comes from freedom in contributing to the cause of Christ. We do not experience this when we give out of compulsion or reluctance.)

When teaching on this text, N.T. Wright says, “In the normal and healthy Christian life, everything proceeds from God’s generosity, and everything returns to God in thanksgiving. Grace, generosity and gratitude: these are not optional extras of Christian

living, but are the very heart of it all.”¹)

A – We all want to become more cheerful givers. What practices have you found to be helpful in determining “what you have decided in your heart to give” that leads to joy rather than reluctance or compulsion?

- a. Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting. Take some time to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best. Select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your Life Community group.
- b. Complement these questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? what do others think?)
- c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage participation. Avoid answering your own questions!
- d. Application: Pace the study to conclude with difference-making application.
- e. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into “teaching” rather than facilitating, causing people to feel distracted or de-powered.

¹ Wright, T. (2004). *Paul for Everyone: 2 Corinthians* (p. 103). London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.