

Sunday, February 12, 2017 Small Group Discussion notes

Introduction: Is it easier to give or receive? Why?

Digging Deeper: Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-14

- 1. Verse 2 states that their "enthusiasm" in giving has stirred others to action. What would make a person enthusiastic in giving? Does the giving of others encourage you to give? Are you enthusiastic in your giving?
- 2. In verses 6-8, we are told not to give "reluctantly or under compulsion." What does this kind of giving look like? What are some wrong reasons to give? What are good reasons to give? Read Matthew 6:2-4. What motives for giving are considered hypocritical? What motives does God reward?
- 3. People might hesitate to give generously to God because they worry about having enough money left to meet their own needs. How do Paul's instructions help eliminate that worry? Why is verse 8 hard to believe at times?
- 4. In verses 9-10 Paul links generosity with righteousness. How are they connected? What does it mean to have our "harvest of righteousness" enlarged?
- 5. Vs. 12-14: When you give do you hope to receive a "thank you," or is it enough that the one who receives gives thanks to God?
- 6. God uses his children to meet the needs of others who are in need. Have you ever been on the receiving end in a situation where God used another Christian to meet your needs? How did that make you feel? How did you respond?
- 7. Constance partners with ministries in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Haiti on a regular basis. Do we do so with enthusiasm or do we participate because we feel we are supposed to?

Abide/Bless/Love:

Where/How might God want you to be involved in blessing others? Will you pray for opportunities to give generously?