

Thanksgiving To God

2024-12-02 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



2 Corinthians 9:6-15

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Paul gives the Corinthians a farming rule: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and God loves a cheerful giver. Pastor Matt framed it as two cycles you can live in. In the scarcity cycle, God supplies, we consume it all, we end up lacking, and we live in fear. In the abundance cycle, God supplies, we sow, and there is more than enough. Here is the tell: fear about money is the signal that you are living in the wrong cycle, because the God we serve is abundant. And most of us are far richer than we feel.

To get started

- When was the last time you felt genuinely grateful for something ordinary?

Looking back at the message

The you-are-rich point can sting. Frame it as perspective rather than accusation.

- 1 Pastor Matt said we are rich and do not know it, which makes gratitude hard. Does that ring true for you?
- 2 Pastor Matt cited statistics showing that people who earn less give away a higher percentage of their income than people who earn more. Why do you think that is?
- 3 Pastor Matt told the story of giving away his first and only real estate commission as a first-fruits offering, during a season when money was tight. What would first fruits look like for you? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. Verse 8 is the promise underneath the whole thing.

- 4 Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. What is the farming picture saying, and what does verse 8 promise?
- 5 Verse 7 says not reluctantly or under compulsion. Why does the posture of the giver matter so much to God?
- 6 Read verses 10-12. List the results Paul names. How many of them are actually about money?
- 7 Read Genesis 14:18-20. This is the first tithe in Scripture. What is the setting, and who gives to whom? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Fear is the diagnostic he offered. That is the question to sit with.

- 8 Fear about money is the signal that you are living in the scarcity cycle. Where do you feel that fear?
- 9 What would actually change in your week if you genuinely believed God was abundant?
- 10 Is there a place where you are consuming everything God supplies and calling it necessity?
- 11 What is one act of generosity you could take this month that would cost you something?

OPTIONAL

The group together

Generosity is contagious in a group and so is anxiety. Ask which one this group spreads.

- 12 Who has been generous to you in a way you still remember?
- 13 What could this group give away together?
- 14 How could this group become a place where gratitude is the normal sound instead of complaint?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

Which cycle are you living in right now, and what is the first step out?

You might pray about

- For gratitude that matches what we actually have
- For freedom from financial fear
- For generosity that is cheerful rather than reluctant