

Dear Parents,

Paul had written a letter (1 Corinthians) addressing several sins that were being tolerated in the church at Corinth. The letter had been a risk. The Corinthians may have rejected Paul, but they did not.



Paul wrote 2 Corinthians to celebrate what God had done in the church and to call on them for help. The church in Jerusalem was in desperate need of help, so Paul was collecting money from the other churches on their behalf.

Paul encouraged the Corinthians to be generous. He told them about the churches in Macedonia. Macedonia was an area north of Corinth. The Christians there were experiencing “extreme poverty.” Nevertheless, they had joy in Christ which “overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.”

Paul encouraged the believers at Corinth to give too. The kind of giving the Macedonian Christians had was motivated by the joy they experienced in intimately knowing God. God is generous to us, so we can be generous to others. God sovereignly provides for us, so we can trust Him and joyfully give to others. Jesus was rich; He had glory and honor in heaven. But He gave that up and became poor by coming to earth to save sinners. Jesus did this so that we, who were poor in spirit, could become spiritually rich. Now we have salvation and eternal life in Jesus. As a result, Paul wanted the Corinthians to give generously and joyfully.

Children can learn to trust God and be encouraged to be generous in the same way Paul encouraged the church in Corinth. It is not the amount that we give that glorifies God—it is our love for God and joy in Him that motivates our giving that glorifies Him.

Children need to know (as do adults) not to give out of duty but out of their trust and joy in God. God loves a cheerful giver.

Family Starting Points – Bible Passages: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-15

Preschool	Elementary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who changes us? God changes us to be like Jesus. • God wants us to give to others. • Key Passage: <p>If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! (2 Cor 5:17 CSB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God’s glory. • God is generous to us, so we can be generous to others. • Key Passage: <p>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! (2 Cor 5:17 CSB)</p>