

Small Group Questions
For The Overflowing Life – Part 4
Giving: Unleashing Generosity

1. What kinds of lessons or values (positive or negative) did you pick up about money and giving from your family? What were the “rules” or “assumptions” about money that you picked up?
2. Matt noted a number of statistics showing that our church giving is going down even though our wealth is increasing. Why do you think this is happening?
3. Before continuing, you may want to review the background story behind this passage found on the last paragraph on the bottom of page 1 in the sermon notes.
4. Read chapter 9:1-15 with “a wide angle view.” In other words, just do a quick observation/overview and list the images, words or phrases that have to do with abundance and joy in our giving.
5. Read chapter 9:5-7. What are the differences between how not to give and how to give? List key words or phrases. (Matt called them “grumpy givers” and “deliriously happy and messy givers.”)
6. What is the key principle in verse 6? How does this apply to giving? Does it also apply to other areas of our life? If so, how and where can we apply this principle?
7. Read verse 8 out loud and slowly. What is the promise here? How do you need to apply this to your life tonight? (Don’t intellectualize or apply it to people in general. How does it apply to you?).
8. Read verses 12-14. What happens in our life and in the lives of other people when we give generously?
9. In his message, Matt asked the following questions:

So the issue facing us this morning is this: How do you see God? Do you believe and live the Gospel? Do you see yourself as a reclaimed child of God – or do you live more like an orphan? Well, now, Paul will say, let me tell you how God’s children live; let me tell you how Gospel-centered people live. They overflow with grace. And one of the ways they overflow is with their giving, that is, their financial generosity.

So how would you answer those questions? How and when do you live as an orphan? How and when do you truly live like God’s child?

Action Point: Okay, so we know that money is a personal issue with many people. We also learned that the Bible talks about money with candor and joy. So, how are you doing in the area of money? What is your greatest joy, hope or fear temptation sin or struggle with money?

Action Point: What step can we take to be a small group of Gospel-centered, generous givers who are secure children of the Father?