



Cuyahoga  
Valley Church

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 5.18.25  
2 Cor. 8:1-9 // Joe Valenti

Please take the opportunity to revisit the CVC Equip  
Portrait of a Healthy LifeGroup on a regular basis

## CONNECT (10 MIN)

- 1 Share a story of Christian generosity that you have experienced. (It could be how someone was generous towards you. It could be how God grew generosity in your own life. Perhaps, you witnessed a particularly touching moment of generosity.)

## EXPLORE (30 MIN)

**Create Context (5 min):** There is no Sermon Recap this week.

### Study & Discussion (25 min)

#### Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9.

- 2 On Sunday, Pastor Joe led us through 4 main points in his sermon:
  1. Grace is the Source of Generosity (v.1)
  2. Joy is the Fuel of Generosity (v. 2-3)
  3. Surrender is the Posture of Generosity (vv. 3-5)
  4. Christ is the Model of Generosity (vv. 6-9)

Which of these main points especially stood out to you on Sunday, and why?

- 3 None of us are perfectly living out the virtue of generosity. Whether it is your current frame of mind or an attitude you had in the past, what are some excuses, fears, or concerns that prevent you from being generous in the way God calls you to be generous?



- ④ Read Matthew 6:19-21. On Sunday, Pastor Joe talked about how when we read this verse, we need to understand that it's telling us that our hearts will follow our treasure. As he put it Sunday, "sometimes joy comes after the obedience." This means that we can give while we pray that God will give us joyful hearts in our giving - we can put our treasures in heaven, and our hearts can follow that obedience.
- How might this verse encourage a Christian who currently finds himself to be a reluctant giver?
  - How does this passage and teaching encourage and/or challenge you today?
  - Can you identify any other areas of the Christian life where it's possible for our "joy to come after our obedience?" If so, what are they?
- ⑤ Pastor Joe said that God wants more than just our money. He wants our affections. Generosity comes from hearts that are full, not wallets that are fat.
- Read Psalm 86:10-13, and consider the state in which God wants our hearts. What do you notice in this passage?
  - If God is after our hearts, what is a step that you can take today to help you surrender your whole heart and life to Him more fully and more joyfully?



## PRAY AND APPLY

- Pray for conviction and joy—that people would respond not out of guilt but out of grace.
- Pray against fear—that those struggling financially would be strengthened to trust God’s provision.
- Pray for gospel transformation—that giving would reflect hearts rooted in Christ’s generosity.
- Pray for next steps—that both new and longtime believers would take intentional steps in their generosity.
- Pray for leaders and givers—that God would multiply the generosity of our church to meet real needs.

## RESOURCES

The Gospel Coalition Course - Knowing the Bible: 2 Corinthians:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-2-corinthians/>

The Gospel Coalition Course - Introduction to 2 Corinthians:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/2-corinthians/>



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# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 5.18.25

Please take a moment to share these announcements with your group.

More information on each item can be found by scanning the QR codes.

## EQUIP

### Sunday Sessions Podcast

Sunday Sessions is a weekly theology class offered in the fall and spring. Each week various topics of doctrine and practice are explored from a conservative, evangelical viewpoint. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in Room 104/106 in the spring! If you can't make it or miss a week, catch up via our podcast [HERE](#).



## COMMUNITY LIFE

### Women's Breakfast: June 7, 2025

Come enjoy food, fellowship, worship, and discussion! We will be joined by Linda Valenti, who will share with us about God's faithfulness to her in the different seasons of her life.

Because God is faithful, He never changes, He is true to His Word, and He keeps His promises. We will learn about and rest in these truths together as we take time to seek God, learn from our speaker, and connect and grow alongside one another! You can register [HERE](#).