Questions for Reflection and Discussion

2 Corinthians 8-9

The Joy of Giving

Getting Started

Give an example of a time when someone was generous to you.

Digging In

1. **Read 2 Cor 8:10-12**. A year earlier, the Corinthians had decided to take a collection for needy Christians in Jerusalem. Paul is now encouraging them to complete the good work they'd begun.

2. **Read 2 Cor 8:1-5**. Paul uses the example of the Macedonians to encourage the Corinthians to follow through on their promised collection. List at least one characteristic of the Macedonians' exceptional example of giving from each of the first 5 verses:
   - verse 1 –
   - verse 2 –
   - verse 3 –
   - verse 4 –
   - verse 5 –

3. **Read 2 Cor 8:6-7**. Why do you think Paul describes giving as an *act of grace*? (v. 6) (See also 8:1)

4. **Read 2 Cor 9:6-8**. How does Paul use agriculture to teach a principle of giving? What is his point?

5. According to 9:7, how does God want us to give?

6. How does Paul's teaching reflect the teaching of Jesus in Luke 6:38?

7. How does God help us to be generous?

Getting Personal

- As you think about the outstanding example of the Macedonians, which aspect of their giving do you find most remarkable? Why?

- What do you feel God is saying to you through this passage? Is there a new way in which he's calling you to trust him?