

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## RUNNING THE RACE

### STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, September 28, 2025

**Teaching Title:** The Law of the Harvest

**Key Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 9:6

# CEDAR VALLEY

### 5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

**Monday:** 2 Corinthians 8

**Tuesday:** 2 Corinthians 9

**Wednesday:** Mark 12:41–44; Matt. 6:19–21; 1 Tim. 6:17–19;  
Luke 18:18–30

**Thursday:** Proverbs 11:24–25, 28:27,14:21

**Friday:** Psalm 112

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's word, what do I need to do?
4. What's your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

### MEMORY TOPIC:

Generosity

**MEMORY VERSE:** 2 Corinthians 9:6 NLT

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.

### LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

#### Introduction:

This week, continuing our series on Spiritual Disciplines, we look at an often over-looked discipline—generosity. In 2 Corinthians, Paul uses a farming illustration, the “law of the harvest,” to help the church understand the principle of generosity. He reminds us that whoever plants only a few seeds will get a small crop, but whoever plants generously will get a generous crop. This truth applies to every area of life—friendship, mercy, forgiveness—but it especially challenges us when it comes to money. Just as farmers must plant seeds to see a harvest, we must step out in faith and give generously in order to experience the blessings of God. God multiplies what we sow, not only meeting our needs but also overflowing to bless others. Ultimately, generosity is not about what God wants from us, but what He wants for us—the joy and blessing of living in step with His law of the harvest. You don't reap what you keep, you reap what you sow.

#### Questions:

Ice Breaker: What's a funny or unspoken law in your house? (For example: no eating on the couch, toilet paper always goes over, not under, etc.)

1. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6–15 as a group. What do we learn about God in this passage? (See Digging Deeper for the context of 2 Corinthians 8–9.)
2. According to Paul, what is the right motive for giving? What are the wrong motives? (vv. 7–8)
3. What is the “harvest of generosity (righteousness)” that God promises to those who are generous? (Hint: vv. 11–15 give the answer.)
4. How does generosity foster unity and encourage others to praise and thank God? (vv. 12–13)
5. How does financial giving glorify God?

6. What does it practically look like for you to “plant generously” in this season of your life? What step of generosity could you take this week that would stretch your faith?

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

### **Question 1 – Context for 2 Corinthians 8–9**

After Paul wrote 1 Corinthians, opponents entered the Corinthian church in the region of Achaia and began to undermine his teaching. As a result, in 2 Corinthians, Paul defends himself against these critics. Many scholars believe these opponents accused Paul of either collecting money for himself or coercing people into giving. (This helps explain why suffering and the power of the Spirit are central themes in the letter.)

In 2 Corinthians 8–9, Paul explains the purpose of the monetary collection for the believers in Jerusalem. In 8:1–15, he offers a theological argument for resuming the collection. Then in 8:16–24, he commends the three men he's sending to carry out the collection. Finally, in 9:1–5, Paul urges the church to complete their giving before he arrives. He doesn't want the Corinthian church to feel pressured or judged, which is why he sends Titus and the others ahead. Paul also wants to demonstrate his own integrity while overseeing such a significant offering.

For Paul, giving is a response to the grace of God and for the glory of God. (From Romans 15:26, we learn that the Corinthians did, in fact, respond well and give to the collection!) When the Corinthian church gave to the church in Jerusalem, it showed that they truly belonged to the larger body of Christ and continued to trust in God's grace. Giving is a response to what God has already done for us in Christ. “Our giving is not a decision to participate in the projects of the church, but an expression of the fact that we are the church—that is, that we belong to God and therefore to one another.” (p. 377)

In 9:6–15, Paul explains that giving must be generous and joyful, because only such giving reflects true faith in God, the One who graciously provides and enables us to live righteously. Since God is a generous giver, we reflect His character by being generous toward others.

Paul both begins and ends these chapters with thanksgiving. Giving is an act of worship, and it glorifies God!

—Paraphrased from Dr. Scott Hafemann, *2 Corinthians: The NIV Application Commentary*.  
Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2000.