

Phase 2
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TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture:

Romans 10:1

1 Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved. 2 I know what enthusiasm they have for God, but it is misdirected zeal. 3 For they don't understand God's way of making people right with himself. Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law. 4 For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result, all who believe in him are made right with God.

Romans 10:9-13

9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. 11 As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." 12 Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. 13 For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:14-15

14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? 15 And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

2 Corinthians 9:7

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever traveled to an unfamiliar area and taken a wrong turn? How long did you travel before you realized you were traveling in the wrong direction? How did you feel when you realized it?

Start **thinking**. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- **Read Romans 10:1-3.** Paul described the Jews' way of getting right with God as misdirected zeal, ie, they were traveling in the wrong direction. Have you ever traveled in the wrong direction spiritually? What made you realize you were going the wrong way?
- **According to Romans 10:4**, what is God's way for becoming right with him?
- **Read Romans 10:9-13.** A lot of people believe that a man named Jesus lived and died on planet Earth. The Bible says even the demons believe in Jesus and his power. How does the belief that leads to the salvation that is described in these verses differ from general belief in Jesus? How did this belief that leads to salvation happen to you?
- **Read Romans 10:14-15.** According to these verses, as followers of Jesus Christ, what is our responsibility?

Start **sharing**. Choose a question to create openness.

- How does Phase 2 help Generations Church to fulfill the responsibility of sharing the gospel with the people of Brunswick County?
- Discuss the project as a small group. Do you have questions or concerns about Phase 2?

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Commit to praying about what your part needs to be in the Phase 2 process.

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

- God, we thank you for all of the ways your are blessing Generations Church. Please lead and guide each of us to do our part in this process. Help us to do this with the heart of reaching Brunswick County with the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Start **digging**. For further study.

- Read the 2nd page and discuss it.

Question: “How Can I Become a More Cheerful Giver?”

Answer: We can learn to be a cheerful giver by studying the greatest giver this world has ever known: Jesus Christ. Leaving behind the riches and glory of His heavenly kingdom, He came to Earth and willingly gave His life so that we could keep ours. As God predestined His children to be conformed to the likeness of His Son (Romans 8:29), there can be no better way to emulate Jesus Christ than by giving selflessly the way He did. Our Savior Himself told us, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). Quite simply, then, our greatest motivation for cheerful and generous giving should be that it pleases the Lord and reflects His gift of salvation to us.

The second letter to the Corinthians reveals a number of inspiring truths that should help us become more cheerful givers. As Paul wisely admonished the Corinthians, “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously” (2 Corinthians 9:6). This indelible truth was also stated by Solomon a thousand years earlier: “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing” (Proverbs 3:9-10). And Christ Himself told us, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap” (Luke 6:38). Indeed, “Good will come to him who is generous” (Psalm 112:5).

This principle is unfailingly clear—we cannot out-give our gracious Creator. The more we give in service to the Lord, the more we will get in return. In fact, the only place in the Bible where God invites us to test Him is Malachi 3:10 where He is talking about our offerings made unto Him: “Test me in this, says the LORD Almighty and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” Once more, the words of Solomon echo this: “One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed” (Proverbs 11:24-25).

As Paul stated, “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). Cheerful giving, therefore, should be a way of life for the Christian who understands the grace of God. When we give generously and with a willing heart, God assures us He will watch over us and provide for us (Isaiah 58:9; Psalm 41:1-3; Proverbs 22:9; 2 Corinthians 9:8, 11). And we need to remember that it’s not just our treasure that we are to cheerfully give back to God. As King David pointed out, everything we have is from God (1 Chronicles 29:14), and this includes our talents and our time as well. As our days are numbered (Psalm 139:16), our time indeed belongs to God. And any gifts we have are also from Him; therefore, “each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10).

For God so loved the world that He gave. We would do well to remember that we are saved because our God so generously gave (John 3:16). As His children, we are called to be “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). When we trust God and honor Him by generously giving our time, treasure, and talent, we are truly letting our light shine before men, and our goodness will reflect radiantly on our Father in heaven.