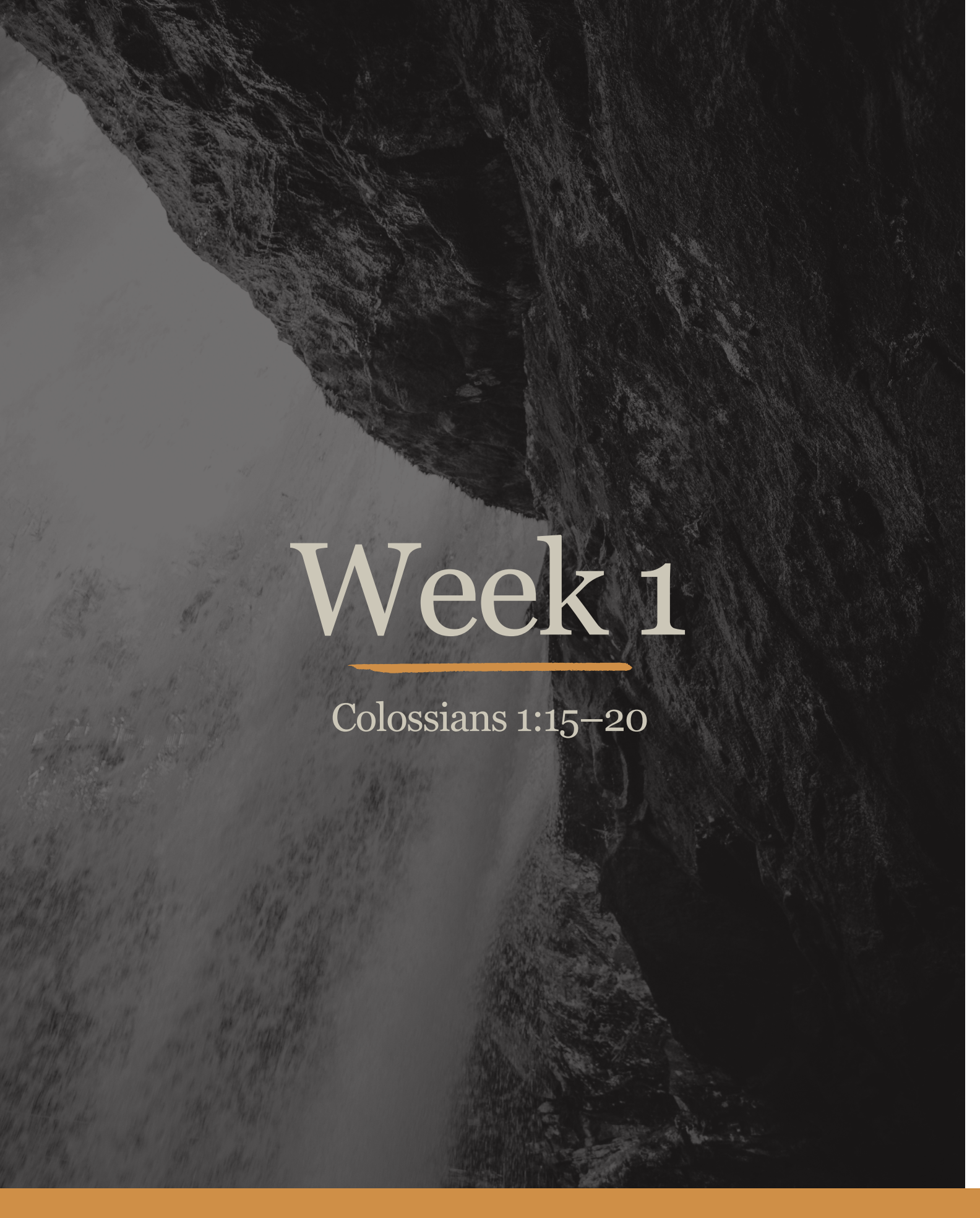




Week 1

Colossians 1:15–20

Colossians 1:15–20

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Series Group Guide

Colossians 1:15–20

Check In + Connect

Share one high and low from your week.

If you had to give a zero-prep presentation right now, what would you teach us?

Read Together

Have a group member read *Colossians 1:15–20* aloud.

Which description of Jesus in this passage stands out to you most, and why?

Look Closer

Read verses 16–17 again and make a list together of everything Paul says is true about Jesus and “**all things**.” What do these statements show us about why Jesus is in a category all His own?

Paul says all things were created “through him and for him” (v. 16). What does it mean for something to be created for Jesus? How does that help us understand the purpose of our own lives?

We often talk about making Jesus our first priority. But Paul uses a different word in verse 18: **preeminent**. A priority is one important thing among other important things. **What’s the difference between Jesus being first on your list and recognizing everything on your list belongs to Him?**

Follow Him

If Jesus is preeminent, **what should determine the decisions a follower of Jesus makes?** What does this look like practically?

It’s possible to live like Jesus is important without living like He’s preeminent. What are some ways our preferences or plans can take priority over what Jesus wants? **How can partial obedience limit what God wants to do in and through our lives?**

Verse 18 specifically calls Jesus “**the head of the body, the church**.” If Jesus is the head of His church, **what does Scripture show us should matter most to His church?** What should we value, prioritize, and be willing to do because He is the head?

Next Step

Think about the different areas of your life. **Where is it easiest for you to let Jesus lead? Where are you more likely to grasp for control?**

Is there anything you already know Jesus is asking you to do that you've delayed, avoided, or only partially obeyed? **What specific step of obedience can you take this week?**

What part of your future feels hardest to hold with open hands before Jesus? Look back at Colossians 1:15–20. **What truth about who Jesus is helps you trust Him with what you can't control?**

Pray Together

Take a minute to pray on your own. Ask God to show you what needs to change for Jesus to be first in every area of your life. Then complete this sentence:

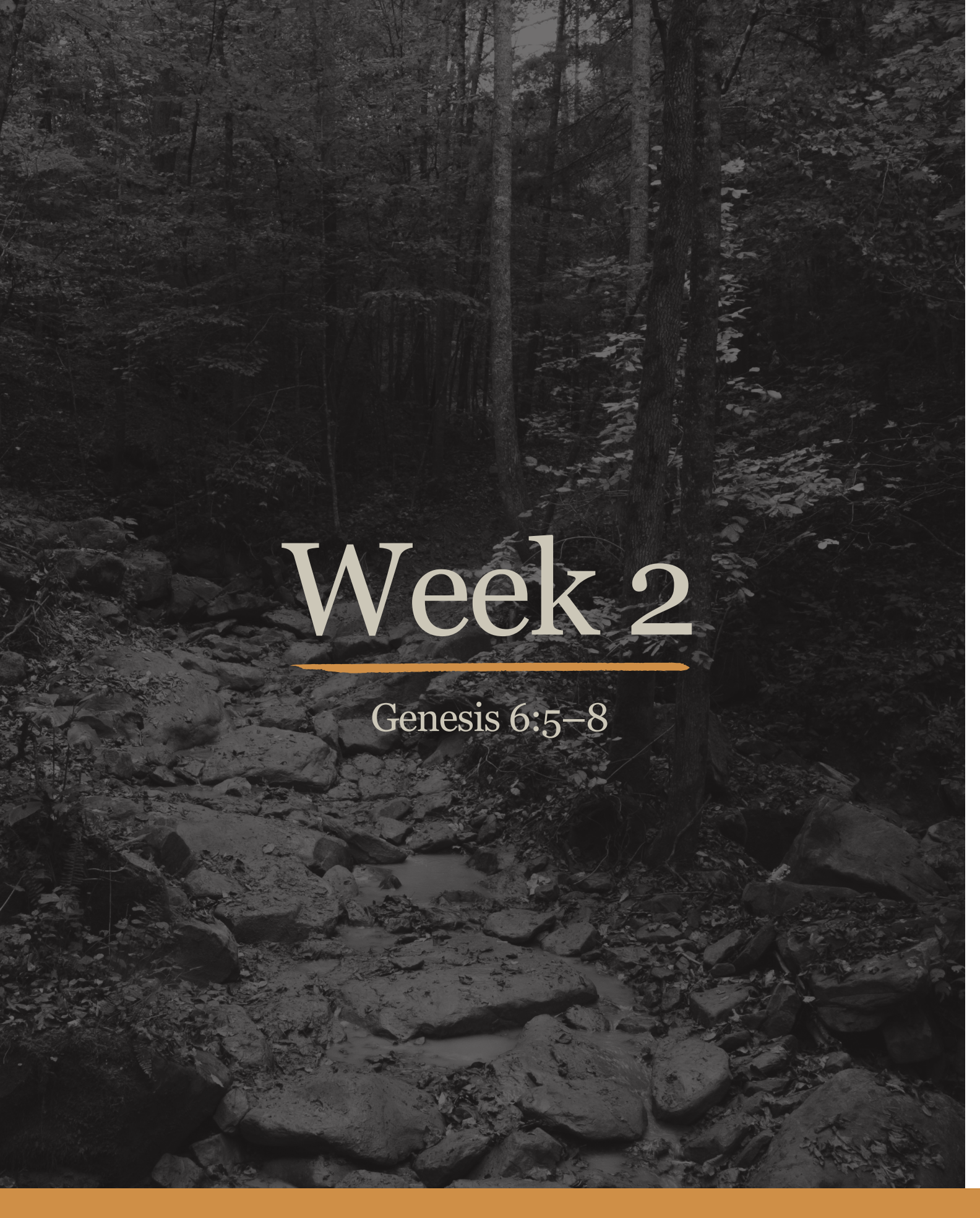
Because Jesus is first, I will:

Share your answer with the group. Then pray together:

Praise Jesus for who He is and His authority over all things.

Ask God to show you where something else has been given too much importance or authority in your life.

Pray for courage to fully obey Jesus wherever He leads.



Week 2

Genesis 6:5–8

Series Group Guide

Genesis 6:5–8

Check In + Connect

Share one high and low from your week.

What’s something you love introducing other people to?
(could be a restaurant, movie, hobby, place, product, etc.)

Read Together

Have a group member read **Genesis 6:5–8** aloud.

What stands out to you most about the contrast between verses 5–7 and verse 8?

Look Closer

Verse 5 describes both people’s actions and the **“thoughts of [their] hearts.”** What does this show us about how sin affects us at the heart level? **Why does changing our behavior alone never solve our deepest problem?**

What do verses 5–7 teach us about the seriousness of sin and how God sees it? What do both God’s grief and judgment over sin show us about what sin deserves?

Verse 8 says, **“But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.”** After everything we’ve just seen about humanity’s sin and God’s judgment, what makes God’s favor toward Noah such good news? **What does this teach us about God’s grace?**

Follow Him

Noah received God’s favor before he was given an assignment. **How should receiving God’s grace influence the way we respond when He invites us to participate in His work?** What changes when obedience flows from gratitude instead of obligation?

As we heard in this week’s message, the ark God told Noah to build was meant to extend beyond his own rescue. **How should God’s heart for people who still need salvation affect the way we think about the purpose and priorities of the church?**

God has given His church a mission to take the good news of Jesus to **our families, our communities, and the nations.**

What opportunities do we have to participate in that mission in each of those places? What can make us overlook the part God has given us to play?

Next Step

Who is someone you have watched build their life around helping others know Jesus? What stands out to you about the way they live?

We can care deeply about God's mission and still fill our lives in ways that leave little room for us to participate in it. **What is one thing you can put on your calendar, change in your routine, or begin doing that would create more margin for God to use you in someone else's life?**

Think about your family, your community, and the nations. **Which of those is easiest for you to overlook when you think about your part in God's mission?** What could greater intentionality there look like?

Pray Together

Take a minute to pray on your own. Ask God to show you where His mission needs to have greater priority in your life. Then complete this sentence:

Because God's mission comes first, I will:

Share your answer with the group. Then pray together:

Thank God for the grace you have received through Jesus.

Ask God to use our church to bring the good news of Jesus to our families, communities, and the nations.

Pray for courage to follow through on the specific ways He is asking you to participate in His mission.

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense, dark green forest. In the background, misty mountains are visible under a grey sky. The overall tone is somber and atmospheric.

Week 3

2 Corinthians 8:1–9

2 Corinthians 8:1–9

¹ We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord,⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵ and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶ Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷ But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. ⁸ I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Series Group Guide

2 Corinthians 8:1–9

Check In + Connect

Share one high and low from your week.

If someone handed you \$1,000 with one rule that you couldn't spend it on yourself, what would you do with it?

Read Together

Have a group member read **2 Corinthians 8:1–9** aloud.

What stands out to you most about the Macedonians and the way they gave?

Look Closer

The Macedonians were experiencing “**extreme poverty**,” yet they gave with “**abundance of joy**,” “**beyond their means**,” and “**of their own accord**.” What surprises you about how they gave? **What compelled them to be so generous when they didn't have much?**

Verse 5 says “**they gave themselves first to the Lord**.” How would you describe the life of someone who gives themselves first to the Lord? **How does giving yourself to the Lord first change the way you see everything else?**

In verse 9, Paul brings the conversation back to Jesus and what He gave for us. **Why do you think Paul points them to the gospel? How does remembering what Jesus gave for us change the way we think about what we're willing to give?**

Follow Him

As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, generosity should grow in us too. What does growing generosity look like over the course of someone's life? What could keep that growth from happening?

The Macedonians gave themselves “**first to the Lord**.” What are some things we can “*give ourselves to*” that make it harder to live generously with what God has given us? **How does the way we use what we have reveal what really comes first for us?**

The Macedonians gave willingly and even begged for the opportunity to participate. **What kind of heart initiates opportunities to be generous without needing to be asked?** How do we become that kind of person?

Next Step

Think about your generosity a year or two ago compared to today. Where have you grown? Where do you want to keep growing?

For some of us, the next step is to **begin giving**. For others, it's to **give consistently**. And for others, God may be leading us to **grow in sacrificial generosity**. Which of those best describes your next step right now, and what do you need to do to follow through in obedience?

What do you **need to believe about God** in order to take that step with confidence?

Pray Together

Take a minute to pray on your own. Ask God to show you what giving yourself fully to Him should change about the way you give. Then complete this sentence:

Because I have given myself first to the Lord, I will:

Share your answer with the group. Then pray together:

Thank God for the generosity He has shown you.

Ask God to help you give yourself fully to Him first.

Pray for growth in generosity as you grow in Christ.



Week 4

2 Corinthians 9:6–15

2 Corinthians 9:6–15

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹² For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Series Group Guide

2 Corinthians 9:6–15

Check In + Connect

Share one high and low from your week.

What’s something you always like to have on hand, just in case? (Maybe it’s snacks, cash, a phone charger, Band-Aids, an umbrella, or something you always keep in your purse or car.)

Read Together

Have a group member read **2 Corinthians 9:6–15** aloud.

What stands out to you most about generosity in this passage?

Look Closer

Verse 7 says to give “not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” **What makes cheerful giving different from simply giving?** Why do you think these verses are more about our attitude toward giving than the amount we give?

Notice the words in verse 8: “**all** grace,” “**all** sufficiency,” “**all** things,” “**all** times,” and “**every** good work.” **What do these words teach us about God’s ability to provide?** How can knowing this give us confidence to live generously?

Follow the movement from God supplying the seed in verse 10 to people giving thanks to God in verse 15. **What does God accomplish through the generosity in between?**

Follow Him

Verse 10 describes God as the one who “supplies seed to the sower” and then “multiplies your seed for sowing.” The seed God supplies is meant to be sown. **What has God given us that can be put to work for His purposes? What does it look like to “sow” what He gives us?**

Verse 11 says God enriches us “to be generous in every way.” **What can make us want to be generous but unable to respond when an opportunity comes? How can we arrange our lives now so we have the freedom to be generous when the opportunities arise?**

Think about a time when someone was generous to you and it made you grateful to God. What is it about generosity

that can turn someone’s attention toward God? How does that change the way we view what’s at stake when we have the opportunity to be generous?

Next Step

Think about the generosity step you’re taking right now. **What helps you give cheerfully and remember that generosity is a privilege?**

Where do you think we can be tempted to underestimate what God can do through our generosity? What does this passage help us understand about the reach of our generosity?

Based on this passage, what can we ask God to accomplish through our generosity? How would praying this way change the way we give?

Pray Together

Take a minute to pray on your own. Ask God to show you how to prepare now to be generous when an opportunity comes. Then complete this sentence:

To be ready to share what God has given me, I will:

Share your answer with the group. Then pray together:

Thank God for everything He has provided and for the privilege of getting to share it.

Ask God to use your generosity to meet needs and bring Him glory.

Pray for readiness to recognize opportunities to be generous and respond with joy when they come.



Week 5

Matthew 25:14–30

Matthew 25:14–30

¹⁴ “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.’ ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Series Group Guide

Matthew 25:14–30.

Check In + Connect

Share one high and low from your week.

What’s something people know they can always count on you for? (*being loudest at the game, having good snacks, finding cheap deals, planning the trip, remembering birthdays, etc.*)

Read Together

Have a group member read **Matthew 25:14–30** aloud.

What stands out to you about each servant’s response to what the master gives him?

Look Closer

The master “entrusted” his property to the servants, giving each a different amount “according to his ability.” Everything they received still belonged to him. **What does this show us about how we should view what God has given us? What does that include beyond money?**

The first two servants were given different amounts and had different results, yet both heard the same words: “**Well done, good and faithful servant.**” Why do you think both servants receive the same praise? How can this help us when we’re tempted to compare what we’ve been given with someone else?

The third servant’s fear was rooted in what he believed about his master. **How does our view of God affect what we’re willing to do with what He has given us?**

Follow Him

The third servant didn’t lose what he was given, but he buried it. **What are some ways we can “bury” what God has entrusted to us? What can keep us from using what God gives us for His purposes?**

Verse 16 says the first servant went “*at once*” and put what he had received to work. **Why can we be tempted to delay something we already know God wants us to do? What does immediate obedience require us to believe about God?**

Verse 19 says the master returned and “settled accounts” with

his servants. **One day, we will stand before Jesus, and the way we used what He entrusted to us will matter. How should that reality affect the way we live today?**

Next Step

What has God entrusted to you that you want to be more faithful with? What would it look like to take that responsibility seriously?

The master describes the first two servants as “*good and faithful*” and the third as “*wicked and lazy*.” **Where are you tempted to settle for doing nothing wrong instead of actively doing something with what God has given you?** What is one step you could take toward goodness and faithfulness?

The way we use what God has entrusted to us reveals whose kingdom we’re building. **Where might God be asking you to make an adjustment so your life more clearly reflects His kingdom?**

Pray Together

Take a minute to pray on your own. Ask God to show you what faithfulness looks like with everything He has entrusted to you. Then complete this sentence:

Because I want to be found faithful when I stand before Jesus, I will:

Share your answer with the group. Then pray together:

Thank God for everything He has entrusted to you and the privilege of using it for His kingdom.

Ask God to give our church an eternal perspective that keeps His mission at the center of how we use what He has given us.

Pray for courage to faithfully act on what God is asking you to do, trusting Him with whatever obedience requires.