“*If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.” Corinthians 8: 12*

***Activity: What about our giving?***

* When I look at my giving in relation to my income, is the percentage I am giving away realistic?
* Does my giving impact my lifestyle in any way? Can I see an element of sacrifice?
* Is my giving a priority from what I receive each week or month, or is it what is left over?
* If what I give away was given back to me, would it make a real difference to me? Would I notice?

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

***Take Away Activity: will take 1 minute!!***

In the week(s) ahead, take some time to think about your giving. Ask God to show you:

* Where you are now? And,

* As you grow as his follower (disciple), what are the next steps he is calling you to make?

**Generosity, Gift & Grace**

**Session 3**

**Serving God through our use of money**

***Activity: The Price is Right***

Each day, week and month we choose how to spend our money. If you chose to treat yourself

to some of the following things, next week, how much would you expect to pay?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Fish & Chips | £ |
| Cinema ticket | £ |
| Coffee in town | £ |
| Bottle of wine from supermarket | £ |
| Drink of your choice in a pub or bar | £ |
| Ticket to your local football team | £ |
| Paying for any other sport | £ |
| Holiday | £ |
| Backing a horse or greyhound | £ |

Then we watch the DVD.

***The Reading is from 2 Corinthians 9: 6 – 10***

6Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever”. 10Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

This is the Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

***Activity: Thinking about the Reading***

***Have a chat about your thoughts!***

* We are used to charity appeals on TV and in the press. Which charities are your friends and family most likely to give to and why?
* When Paul talks about the sower in verses 9 and 10, what does this illustration show us about giving?
* What is your reaction to verse 8?
* How might this apply to someone who has problems with debt?
* Does this mean that all wealthy people have been blessed by God?
* What suggestions are made, in the reading, to help us to decide how to give?
* What are some benefits of generous giving?

***Activity: St Elsewhere’s -*** See separate sheet

St Elsewhere’s has some made up descriptions of people. For each person:

1 How do you think they are currently deciding how much to give to their church?

2 Based on other information and discussion today, what factors do you think each of the people should consider?

3 What would be an amount for them to give each week (or month)?

***Information:*** John Wesley worked out how much he needed to live on, and he gave away the rest. In the beginning, he had very little income and he started off not really giving away very much. However, by the end of his life he had money coming in from absolutely everywhere, and he still lived on the amount of money he needed and therefore he gave more and more away. God knows us better than we know ourselves and understands that all

our circumstances are different and therefore our giving will be different.