

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF (11.02.23) | AWAKEN TO POSITION

WARM UP QUESTION

What's your favorite "cheap" meal?

DISCUSS

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

- What traits and actions describe the churches in Macedonia? How does their example inspire or challenge you personally?
- Despite going through a severe trial, these believers were filled with "abundant joy" and even begged for the privilege to give. Where do you think their joy came from? Have you experienced that same thing firsthand?
- Think of a time of severe trial in your life, whether in the past or right now. What could abundant joy look like in these seasons? What could generosity look like?
- Verse 5 says that the first action of these believers was to "give themselves to the Lord." In your life, what do you give yourself to first? What reasons or excuses keep you from giving yourself first to God?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:6-9

- What words are used to describe the type of giving we're called to? Do you view giving this way? How do you usually think of or approach it?
- What does verse 9 tell you about Jesus? What are you particularly thankful for when it comes to the sacrifice He made, giving up everything for you?
- The word grace is repeated twice in these verses – "gracious act of giving" and "generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ." Why does grace matter so much? How does the radical grace of Jesus influence or change your position on giving, particularly when it comes to your time, talent, and treasure?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:10-15

- Paul urges the church at Corinth to follow through on the commitment they made previously. He wants them to stay committed to what they had the desire to do a year ago. Do you find it easy or hard to stay committed to the things you've said you would do? What tends to make your eagerness or commitment dwindle?

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- Another thing Paul urges is to give from what we DO have, not from what we DON'T. Instead of saying, "I'll give when I get my promotion or the debt is paid off," we give our first and best from what we have right now. Have you ever held off from giving because you're waiting for a "better season"? How do these verses challenge you to approach giving differently?
 - All the verses we've read today point to the position God holds in your life. Is He first, or does He hold a position behind something else? Answer this question honestly with your group. What do you know about God and His character that compels you to acknowledge Him as first? What step is He calling you to take in this area, no matter what position you find yourself in right now?

RESPOND

Reflect on what you just discussed. What is God prompting you to do next so that He can do a work in you? How about through you? Share your next step with your group, including when you'll do it, and write it in your Awaken Guide (page 78).

PRAY

Spend some time praying together as a group. Thank God for the radical sacrifice He made in sending His Son, Jesus, and for the grace He extends to you every day. Pray that no matter the season you're in, He would awaken you to the privilege of giving. Ask Him to fill you with abundant joy, eagerness, and commitment to give yourself first to Him above all else. You can pray in pairs, small groups, or have multiple people pray out loud.

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF (10.29.23) | AWAKEN TO SIGNIFICANCE

- Elevating our sights to an eternal perspective means putting our trust in God and living for what matters most rather than what's temporary. How does verse 33 emphasize this statement? What does it look like for you to seek God's Kingdom first?
- Seeking God first gives us a new perspective. It gives us eyes to see and ears to hear. God isn't just number one on a list of priorities we have on a page. He is the page. What in your life is taking the place of God in your priorities? What can you do about it this week?

RESPOND

Reflect on what you just discussed. What is God prompting you to do next so that He can do a work in you? How about through you? Share your next step with your group, including when you'll do it, and write it in your Awaken Guide (page 66).

PRAY

Spend some time praying together as a group. Thank God for providing all of your needs. Pray that He would awaken you to an eternal perspective to seek Him and His Kingdom first. Ask Him to give you eyes to see and ears to hear the ways you can invest your time, talents, and treasure in things that will last for eternity. You can pray in pairs, small groups, or have multiple people pray out loud.