



Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide  
BOLD Half-Time  
LEADER GUIDE

### **BOLD HALF-TIME**

As a church we are half-way through our three-year BOLD initiative, a giving initiative with the goal to provide funding to reach 10,000 people across Northwest Georgia and into the Tennessee valley. Since then we have seen generous giving and sacrifice across our campuses, and we have been able to build our Chatsworth Campus debt free! We also see the opportunity to build another campus without financing, using BOLD income. This would allow us to be in two of the three planned buildings with no additional debt! But this continues to require prayer and joyful sacrifice on the part of the church.

As a small group we ask that you discuss this critical (but sometimes sensitive) topic of generosity using the following discussion guide. Generosity is dear to God's heart, as we are never more like God than when we give! So we encourage you to prayerfully engage in this discussion and let the Holy Spirit open your eyes to God's incredible plan.

**Leaders:** Please take a few minutes in advance to prepare by reading over this guide, and familiarizing yourself with the passages and the questions. Specifically PRAY for God to use this discussion to help people see God's incredible plan and promises when we surrender everything (especially our finances) to Him!. Expect God to work in a big way through this!

### **GOALS OF THIS GUIDE:**

- Define biblical generosity.
- Explain why generosity matters to God and why it's important for us.
- Help those struggling to give overcome their fears and trust God financially.
- Define next steps for us.

### **ICEBREAKER: (Choose one)**

- What is one of the most memorable gifts you have ever GIVEN someone?
- If you won the lottery, what would be one thing you would do for someone else?

### **INTO THE WORD:**

#### **Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 as a group.**

*A quick summary: This book is written by Paul (one of the early church leaders) to the church in Corinth. In chapter 8 Paul gives specific instruction to the Corinthians about their promised*

financial gift to an impoverished group of believers. The Corinthians wanted to provide relief, but had not followed up on their promise so far. Paul uses the example of the Macedonian church to “spur” the Corinthians on to action, and fulfill their intended act of generosity.

- 1) (v.1-2) What is generosity? What made the generosity in this passage so noteworthy?  
Leader: Generosity is not defined by the *amount* given, but by the level of sacrifice. The power of their gift was that it came from extreme poverty.
- 2) (v.3-5) How did they view this act of giving: as a privilege or a burden?  
Leader: Generosity is our opportunity to be a part of God’s work, and the Macedonians clearly saw it as an opportunity to *partner with God*. They viewed this act as a *ministry* and a part of their call as members of the family of God.
- 3) (v.3-5) What do you think it means that they “gave themselves especially to the Lord”?  
Leader: Generosity must come from a submitted heart and life. All significant spending should be submitted to prayer. You cannot say your life is God’s and not let him have a say in your spending.
- 4) (v.6-10) Many people have difficulty with giving to the church, specifically the biblical pattern of tithing and percentage giving. But what standard did Jesus give us? How much did He give? Why is it so hard for us to think about giving 10% or more back to God?  
Leader: It is very hard to argue about giving when Jesus so clearly gave everything for us, far and above 10%. Most people struggle with giving because they struggle to trust God for their provision, and/or they haven’t truly set their hearts on Jesus as their treasure. Giving is a HUGE step of surrender and obedience, but incredibly necessary for our walk with Jesus.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

- 5) Why do you think God wants a positive attitude to go along with our giving? What can get in the way of this?  
Leader: God is a cheerful giver! He gives joyfully of Himself to His creation. God wants the same from us. We can take our eyes off of God’s generosity when we focus on our own desires, and give grudgingly instead of joyfully.
- 6) Often we view giving as a challenge because we focus on what we have, and the often the apparent lack. According to this passage, where does our lack or abundance come from?  
Leader: The Bible details over and over how God is our source, and that generosity *brings a blessing* on our lives, especially in our finances. While this does not mean God will make us rich, He clearly promises to supply all our needs. While some people in your group will be struggling with the margin to be generous, steps of faith and trust are *critical* and they

should view [prayerful steps of faith](#) as *urgent* and a key to having God's blessing on their financial lives.

## APPLY THE WORD:

- 7) How do you process or decide on opportunities to give, such as the BOLD initiative? If married, how do you do that with your spouse?

Leader: If possible, share first how you (and if married, your spouse) decide on giving opportunities, and how you process them with God. The goal here is to teach people to seek the Lord about ways to be generous; specifically, for couples the goal is to help them talk and work in unity ("oneness") in financial decisions and generosity.

- 8) How can you take a step forward in obedience to Jesus in the grace of giving? What might be standing in the way?

Leader: Help your group see that any step forward is important. Some people may be struggling with the whole concept, and giving a percentage is at least a step forward. Tithing is a pattern set in scripture, but again Jesus set a very high standard of generosity – He gave a lot more than 10%. We should see 10% as a very healthy place of trust and obedience. Those who are already giving could be encouraged to take a step of generosity – sacrificing for the mission of God. If they haven't participated in BOLD already, this would be a great step for them.

*Special Note: Many people are in the place to give generously, and should. But there are others in the church who are struggling to pay for basic necessities. Rock Bridge offers financial assistance and counseling to those in need, and no member of Rock Bridge will go without food and shelter. Contact your campus pastor for more information, but please ask for help!*

## PRAYER TIME

- Commit to praying for one another for the faith and obedience to take next steps in being generous. Each person commit to praying for one other person in the group until the next meeting.