



Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide
BOLD Half-Time
PARTICIPANT 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.

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?

- 2) (v.3-5) How did they view this act of giving: as a privilege or a burden?
- 3) (v.3-5) What do you think it means that they “gave themselves especially to the Lord”?
- 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?

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?
- 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?

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

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.