

The Rule of Opportunity

Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part altogether, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is one of the best invitations you have ever received?
2. What is one opportunity that you regret not taking advantage of?

Read the following passages: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9; 9:6-11.

The Macedonians' joy brought about a surprising change of perspective: they saw opportunity in the midst of their extreme poverty. The converse is also true: the more we learn to see the opportunities all around us, the more joy we will experience. So how do we become people who see life through the lens of opportunity? It is helpful to remember four things: 1) We will reap what we sow; 2) God multiplies what we put in his hands; 3) We always have opportunities; 4) When we help somebody else win, we win.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What does Paul mean when he says that the Macedonians “gave themselves first of all to the Lord”? How can such a perspective impact how we think about sowing and reaping, particularly when we feel like what we have sown has not led to much?
2. Jesus tells us that the services we perform for our fellow believers are effectively services we perform for him. (See Matthew 25:31-46.) How does this reality impact how you think about serving others?
3. What are some practical ways you can sow into others in this season of your life?
4. Jesus relied on the reality that the Father would multiply what Jesus put into his hands. (For a dramatic example, see the feeding of the 5,000 in John 6:1-13.) What are some small opportunities in your life that could make a big impact with God's blessing?
5. Read Philippians 1:20-24. Describe the sense in which no person can take away from us our best opportunities? What would you consider to be some of the “best” opportunities in life?
6. Paul writes that Jesus made himself “poor” so that we “through his poverty might become rich.” What does that mean? What are some ways we can help other people win? How can we overcome our own insecurity and jealousy so we can help other people win?

Pray