

LWR SUNDAY: 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Bible Study

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, ‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.’ ¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for God’s indescribable gift!

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God,

All we have and all we are gifts from you. Help us to be good stewards of these gifts and to glorify you through our love reaching our neighbors. We give thanks for organizations like Lutheran World Relief that help us to share our gifts with those in need around the world. Continue to bless us that we might bless others. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

MAIN IDEA

By God’s grace, we have been saved, and God has freed us to be of service to others. What a gift!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What words or phrases stand out to you in this passage? Why?
- Verse 7 says, “Each one of you must give as you have made up your mind,” which connotes an understanding of generosity as a kind of spiritual discipline or commitment. How have you seen generosity developed as a spiritual discipline in your own life?
- Read verses 11 and 12 again. In what ways have you felt blessed through the sharing of your gifts with others?

- Read verse 13 again. God’s grace has freed us to be generous (“not reluctantly or under compulsion,” as verse 7 says). Since we don’t need to give to those in need in order to earn God’s favor or salvation, why do you think God calls us to do so?
- For the past 75 years, your faithful support has consistently allowed Lutheran World Relief to go where the need is and walk with communities until they can walk on their own. This year, we celebrate the 75th anniversary of this extraordinary ministry, but what we are really celebrating is God’s provision and faithfulness, shown when you share your love to our neighbors in need. Your commitment and generosity continue to transform lives around the world. And thanks to your partnership — and our shared trust in God — we look forward with excitement to a future in which each person, every community and all generations live in justice, dignity and peace.
- Stella, a coffee farmer in Kenya, is just one of the millions of people around the world who have benefitted from your support of LWR’s work. Watch the video about Stella’s story found at this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuQfitRrKq0>
 - How do you see the theme of “generosity” showing up in Stella’s story?
 - Stella talks about how much her community means to her. How do generosity and community connect in your own life? Would you consider yourself Stella’s neighbor?

CLOSING PRAYER

God of all Creation,

You have made us and freed us to be cheerful givers. Help us to truly live into that identity. Give us opportunities to be generous, and open our eyes to the needs of our communities, both close to home and around the world. Continue to bless the ministry of Lutheran World Relief and the millions of people whose lives have been changed through that ministry. Through the lasting promise of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

BLESSING

Before you go, share a blessing with one another. Taking turns, give the following blessing to the person on your left while tracing the sign of the cross on their forehead or hand, with their permission:

Thanks be to God for God’s indescribable gift!