

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series on Letters to New Christians. Today's topic: **GENEROSITY AND MISSION.**

1) An appeal for generosity

- a. What instruction had Paul given in his first letter to Christians in Corinth about a collection for the Christians in Jerusalem? 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
- b. How had Christians in Macedonia responded to Paul's appeal? 2 Corinthians 8:1-4
- c. What additional appeal did Paul make in his second letter to Christians in Corinth? 2 Corinthians 9:1-5
- d. Share an appeal for generous support that touched your heart.

2) A reflection of our generous God

- a. According to Paul, how was the generosity of God revealed? 2 Corinthians 8:9
- b. How did Paul emphasize the generosity of God in his letter to Christians in Philippi? Philippians 2:5-8
- c. What other passages of Scripture emphasize the generosity of God? Lamentations 3:22-24, 1 John 3:1, John 3:16, etc.
- d. What are your thoughts about the generous gift of Jesus to rescue us from this sin-ravaged world?
- e. When did you accept the generous gift of Jesus as your personal Savior?

3) A generous spirit

- a. How does a generous spirit go beyond what might be expected? 2 Corinthians 8:5
- b. How is the giving of ourselves in addition to material gifts a reflection of the generous spirit of God? (James 1:17, John 3:16, Luke 11:13, etc.)
- c. What important principles about giving are found in 2 Corinthians 9:7?
- d. Some people may return a tithe of their income and give offerings out of a sense of obligation or fear of negative consequences. (Malachi 3:8-9) What blessing is lost when we give with such an attitude?
- e. Why should we avoid comparing our generosity with the generosity of others? 2 Corinthians 8:3,12
- f. Share a time when you witnessed a cheerful giver.
- g. Why is a generous spirit essential if we are to accomplish the mission of sharing a message of eternal hope through Jesus with the world?
- h. Share an example of an early follower of Jesus who gave generously to advance the mission of God.
- i. Share a time when you witnessed someone manifesting a generous spirit when sharing the truth about Jesus with others.
- j. How is God impressing you to be generous with your financial resources and with your time?

