

## The Church Unleashed

“A Mission for Justice”

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

### OPEN WITH PRAYER

**GETTING STARTED:** When was an experience in your life where you witnessed an act or culture of injustice? How did the experience make you feel? How did you respond? How do you feel about your response?

### LEARNING & APPLYING GOD’S WORD

**Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 together**

1. What is a summary of the main points of Brian’s message from Sunday?
2. Paul tries to motivate the Corinthian church by sharing the example of the Macedonian Church’s generosity in verses 1-5. What example would he use if writing today? What inspires your desire to contribute to the church and charities in general?
3. What is your response to the Shane Claiborne Quote? Do you agree or disagree? How and why?

*“the church has been content to be a broker between the rich and poor. Both those trapped in poverty and those trapped in riches view the church as a distribution center, a place where the poor come to get stuff and the rich come to dump stuff. No radical new community is formed.*

*In this model, both go away satisfied (the rich feel good, the poor get fed) - but neither goes away transformed.”*

*Functionally, many nonprofits act as brokers between the rich and the poor. They facilitate the exchange of goods and services, putting plenty of professionals in the middle to guarantee that the rich do not have to face the poor and that power does not shift. Rich and poor are kept in separate worlds. Charity does not feed fundamental change.*

4. Which of the characteristics of being a “Freedom Fighter” are the easiest for you? The most difficult? (Give Generously, Cross Boundaries, Build Relationships, & Do Justice)
5. Read 2 Corin 8:5 - How has the love and grace of Christ made you “rich”?

### **LIVING OUT “REAL LIFE”**

*“...you're shoulder to shoulder with them all the way, your surplus matching their deficit, their surplus matching your deficit. In the end you come out even”  
(2 Corin 8:17-18 The Message)*

1. What can you do get shoulder to shoulder with more people who need the love, grace and justice of God?
2. What is an issue of injustice in our world that you are passionate about? What can you do about this issue? How can you be one who stops people from “falling into this river of injustice”...?
3. How can you as an RLG “dream big” and be freedom fighters together?

### **SHARING AND PRAYER (Prayer Requests)**

Take some time to share prayer requests, where you need to find God’s grace and peace. Be sure to give thanks for each other and pray for one another’s needs. When we pray together, we find the power of God.

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