

THE BIG IDEA

Money is just an earthy tool to show the love of God.

WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW IT?

Because often, we don't use money for good, we allow money to use us for selfishness.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Give to Together in This by going to forefrontnyc.com/tgit/ give

Join us this Eastertide for a series of stories within our community that remind us of the impact Forefront makes in our lives. This is a campaign to remind us that we are together in this.

OPENING QUESTIONS:

Do you call Forefront home? If so, why? How did you first come to our church and why have you decided to stay? How have you experienced grace within our community. Allow group members to briefly share their stories of how Forefront has impacted their lives.

It's alright if this sharing takes up the bulk of your time tonight. We want to hear and celebrate the stories of grace and growth within our church. If you only have time for this then end the night with ten minutes of individual and group prayer (see below).

BIBLE STUDY:

Read 2nd Corinthians 8: 1-9

Read the commentary from N.T. Wright sent to you via email as a Google slideshow. Use it to help you facilitate your group discussion or share it directly with your group members to read before you meet.

Copy & paste this link to share the Google slideshow:

http://docs.google.com/presentation/d/ 1OA5SSILU7uM1zIX7nXyNltSxe_R7RCr2kH4EzNSR_-Y/edit? usp=sharing

UPCOMING EVENTS:

For more info or to RSVP to any of these events, go to forefrontnyc.com/calendar

4/6 - Newcomers Dinner

4/13 - <u>Game Night at the</u> <u>Kenmore</u>

4/19 - Do For One Info Night

4/21- Leadership Community

Questions for Discussion:

How is Paul using the word "grace" in this passage? How do you define grace for yourself?

In this passage we see examples of Jews and Gentiles coming together as the church. Describe the character of the church in Macedonia. How do you think people and churches like them develop this character?

In 2 Corinthians 8: 8-9 we see that at the center of Paul's appeal is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. How does the truth of Jesus become a practical way of life for his followers? Another way to ask this is how Jonathan put it in his Easter sermon...how do we see the resurrected Christ alive in each other? What does this mean to you?

What fears or worries hold you back from allowing grace to thrive in you? What fears or pain from the past arises in you when people talk of giving to the church? How can Paul's words help you process or redeem those fears and pain?

PRAYER:

Engage in a time of listening prayer. Each group member needs a paper and pen. Set a timer for 5 minutes and allow each other to write your thoughts and prayers in silence. As you write, ask God to show you what obstacles may be in your heart that cause you fear and prevent you from being a cheerful and generous giver within community. Pray for God's power to release you from these obstacles.

GROUP PRAYER:

Pray aloud for our church, for our leaders, our staff and all those on the edges of community, that we would come together in generous giving to support the church Christ has lifted up through us here in New York, so we may continue to do the work God has called us to for many years to come.