GENESIS TO REVELATION | LETTER LESSON

Giving Freely and Sharing Fairly

2 Corinthians 8:1-15



YOUR BIBLE READING

Generous care is freely chosen, proportionate to ability, and directed toward fairness.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

Generosity That Was Freely Chosen



2 Corinthians 8:1-15

In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul tells about the churches of Macedonia. They had experienced severe trouble and deep poverty, yet had shown generous care for other believers in need. Their joy and generosity were signs of God's grace among them. Poverty did not make their kindness invisible. Paul describes their response with gratitude, letting the Corinthians hear about a community whose difficult circumstances had not become the whole description of its life.

The Macedonian believers gave willingly. Paul says their giving reached beyond what might ordinarily have been expected from their resources, and that they asked to take part in this service. The free choice matters. He is not describing officials forcing a payment from them. Nor is he giving children a command to surrender food or medicine. The account within the letter tells of these believers' voluntary participation in helping others, beginning with giving themselves to the Lord.

Paul explains that Titus had begun encouraging this work among the Corinthians and should help complete it. The Corinthians were rich in several kinds of Christian activity, including faith, speech, knowledge, earnestness, and love. Paul wanted generous care to grow alongside those gifts. He did not treat spoken ability as a substitute for practical help. Love had an opportunity to become a shared action directed toward the needs of people beyond their immediate gathering.

He explicitly says he is not speaking as a command. He is encouraging the sincerity of their love through the earnestness shown by others. Then he points to the grace of Jesus Christ, who became poor for their sake so they might receive riches through him. This concerns Christ's self-giving grace, not a promise that a financial contribution will make its giver wealthy. The letter's center is generous love freely received and freely expressed.

Remember: Willing sharing respects real resources and seeks enough for everyone.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Sharing According to What Is Available

2 Corinthians 8:1-15



The Corinthians had already shown willingness and begun this effort earlier. Paul advises them to complete the doing as well as the wanting. A good intention can need an organized next step. Yet his instruction includes a clear measure: completion should be according to their ability. He does not ask them to invent resources they do not have or treat a person's willingness as unacceptable because the available amount is smaller than someone else's gift.

Readiness is accepted according to what a person has, not what they lack. This sentence protects the meaning of willing generosity from becoming a competition. An enormous total is not the only way to recognize sincere care. Paul is interested in a real, suitable contribution, not in making a display that leaves the giver unable to live. The earlier example of the Macedonians must be read beside these limits, rather than used to erase them.

Paul states the purpose plainly: the recipients should not be relieved while the givers are burdened. The aim is fairness. At present, one community's abundance can meet another community's need. At a different time, the direction of help may be reversed. This is mutual care rather than a permanent division between important benefactors and unimportant dependents. A person who receives help today does not lose dignity, and one who gives does not become superior.

The passage closes with Scripture's picture of people gathering different amounts yet having enough. The one with much did not keep an excess while the one with little lacked what was needed. Paul uses that memory to support fair sharing. The movement of the lesson is from freely chosen generosity to a completed action within real ability, then toward enough for all. Love's purpose is not pressure, prestige, or a promise of profit, but practical care that respects both giver and recipient.

Pause and think: How could sharing meet a real need while respecting both the giver's limits and the recipient's dignity?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Enough, Willingness, and Wise Help



Children can learn generosity without being made responsible for adult shortages. You may share time, a suitable possession, or help with a family-approved project. Ask a trusted adult what is appropriate. Food, medicine, school needs, and safety are not things a child must give away to prove faith. A person urging secrecy or making frightening promises about a donation is not a safe guide to generosity.

Notice Paul's distinction between what someone has and what they do not have. Comparing gifts can turn kindness into embarrassment. A small suitable contribution may express sincere care, while another person may need to receive help rather than give. Fair sharing pays attention to actual circumstances. It does not require a person to pretend resources are available simply because the request sounds important.

For a present-day example, a family might support a trusted food program after checking its own needs and making a willing decision. That is an illustration, not an event described in the letter. The aim would be useful nourishment and shared care, not public applause. Receiving such help should also come with respect. Generosity works best when dignity belongs on both sides.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Paul encourages freely chosen giving within real ability so communities can share fairly and have what they need.

How could sharing meet a real need while respecting both the giver's limits and the recipient's dignity?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Does Paul present this appeal as a forced payment?

2. What is the goal of sharing in this passage?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Complete willing plans according to available ability.
- ☐ Share toward fairness and enough for all.
- ☐ Recognize the Macedonians' freely chosen generosity.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw two communities sharing resources, with both giving and receiving shown respectfully.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Willing sharing respects real resources and seeks enough for everyone.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: 2 Corinthians 8:8,11-15

A thoughtful conversation

Read the Macedonian example alongside Paul's explicit limits: freely chosen giving, according to available means, without burdening one group to ease another. Never pressure children to surrender essentials, make secret donations, or expect financial rewards from giving. Use a modest, adult-guided example that respects the dignity of both receiving and sharing.

Activity answers

1. No; he encourages willing generosity rather than issuing it as a command.
2. Fairness, so one community's resources can meet another's need without creating distress for the givers.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 2, 3, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, help us share willingly and wisely, with respect for everyone's real needs. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on 2 Corinthians 8:1-15. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration: original symbolic vector artwork by DigiPick.store; a learning aid, not an additional Bible event.
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