

The Apostle Paul and Generosity

Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 10-15 & 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

A lot of people missed vacations this year because of COVID. Were you supposed to go on a trip that got cancelled? There is a person in the Bible that went on a lot of trips but they didn't always go as planned either.

In the first century (a long time ago in Bible times) a man named Paul traveled thousands of miles and most of that was either in a boat or by walking. Watch the following video for an introduction to his three main trips:

Introductory Video of the Apostle Paul's Travels

Click [HERE](#)

Paul was a very smart man and he was also good with words. The bible tells us that his words were mostly about Jesus and that was a message of Good News.

One time, Paul had to share some bad news with his friends. The bad news was that there was a terrible famine back in Jerusalem and many people were suffering. Do you know what a famine is? If not find out!!

The picture below shows what a famine can look like. There have been some well-known famines in the world. One famine in Europe that caused many people to move to the United States and Canada was called the Potato Famine



Find out when and where the Potato Famine took place.

The Apostle Paul didn't just tell people the bad news about the famine, he asked his friends that he visited to help the people in Jerusalem by giving some of their money. The Bible story comes from 2nd Corinthians. Paul was writing to his friends in Corinth. What country is Corinth in today? Look at the map below. Circle Macedonia, Corinth and Jerusalem.



Paul asked the people of Corinth to learn from the people of another area, the Macedonians. He talks about the “rich generosity” of the Macedonians. Do you think Paul said this because the people were actually very rich? Read 2 Corinthians 8:2. What does it say about how rich the people in Macedonia were when he talked about their generosity? Were they were giving money to help during the famine?

Paul tells us that we don't have to be rich to give. A bit later in his letter he tells his friends that we don't need to give what we don't have. He basically says that if we have two dollars, we are only responsible for how we use those two dollars, not the two hundred dollars we don't have. Paul would say that a person with two dollars who gives one dollar is more generous than a person with two hundred dollars who gives twenty dollars! Can you figure out why Paul would say giving one dollar can be more generous than giving twenty dollars?

Finally, Paul uses the image of a farmer in 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. He reminds us that if a farmer doesn't plant very much the farmer won't have a very big crop. In saying this, Paul is encouraging his friends to plant seeds of generosity and see what God will do as a result of being generous. Are there ways you can be generous without money? Can you name at least 3 ways?

Today, there is not a famine in Jerusalem. Today, there is a terrible famine and an ongoing war in Yemen. If Paul lived today, do you think Paul would want us to know the bad news about the situation in Yemen? Do you think he would want us to be generous to help those in Yemen? How about your friends and neighbours who need some help, would Paul ask us to be generous toward them?

The lesson Paul wants us to learn is that we can hear some bad news but do more than just feel bad. We can do our part, no matter how small or big that is and when we do, we are being generous.

Watch this video to hear from Salah, an 11 year old from Yemen. He talks about what it is like for him living in Yemen. (note: if you will be using lesson 3 this video is also in that resource)

Click [HERE](#)

For those who would like to help Yemen, there is a special fundraiser called MENA Monday. Have your parents check out <https://www.facebook.com/MENASGNews> on Facebook or contact menarc@covchurch.org for more information.

See attached maps as resources.





Countries that border the Mediterranean Sea