

Word One Bible Study

Are You Poor or Rich?

by Steve Breitbarth

Text: 2 Cor. 8:1–9, 13–15 for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Lectionary Series B

OBJECTIVES

Participants will gain a greater understanding of what being a Christian means in their daily life.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bibles
Index cards
Newsprint
Pencils
Markers

GROUP GUIDELINES

Form groups of 8-12 people. Choose as leader the person who has the most pocket change with them.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Write the answers to the following questions on an index card:

1. What are some occasions in which you receive gifts or presents?
2. How do you feel when you receive a gift?
3. What are some reasons why people give gifts?
4. Discuss the reasons why it is easier for you to give a gift than to receive a gift?

LOOKING AT GOD'S WORD

1. As a group, develop a list of words on newsprint that are used to describe someone who is poor.
2. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15.
3. In what ways were the Macedonian Christians rich?
4. Even though the church at Corinth struggled financially, Paul still describes them as being rich. In what ways were they considered to be rich?
5. Describe how, as a Christian, you are considered to be rich.
6. What did Titus and the Macedonian Christians do to bring some equality to the church at Corinth?
7. What are the various ways you can bring riches or equality to someone who is spiritually poor?
8. From memory, try to recite the First Commandment along with Martin Luther's explanation.
9. Explain how it is possible for a person to give themselves to the Lord. What does the First Commandment say about doing this?

REINFORCING WHAT HAS BEEN LEARNED

1. On newsprint, develop a list of various ways people give themselves to the Lord.
2. Describe the ways in which you have given, or can give yourself first to the Lord.

CLOSING

The group leader is to close with a prayer concerning service to the Lord.

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