

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Genesis 12:1-3; Deuteronomy 8:17-18; Jonah 3:1-10; Malachi 3:7-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8; 13:1-3; 26:12-20; Romans 1:14-16; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:1-15

PRINT PASSAGES: Acts 1:6-8; 2 Corinthians 8:3-9



L12 Values, Money, and Experiences



It's three days before the local competition; Eli, Noah, Walt, and Theo were ready. They had spent the last two days working on their presentation. They named the robot SSR (Super Sonic Robot). The judges have certain criteria for the competition, including judging creativity, originality, presentation, and innovation. The boys did a final test and were confident that SSR had a good chance of winning.



Finally, the big day had arrived! There was lots of excitement in the air. The SSR was up against ten other projects. They were all excellent. The judges had a difficult time choosing. Finally, the announcement was made. The SSR came in first place. The deciding factor was in the creativity category. After the win, their parents took them all out for a huge dinner celebration. They were now looking forward to the regionals in two weeks in Arizona.

Fast forward to one day before the regionals. The teacher from their mechanical engineering class traveled with them. The SSR exhibit was all set up, so the boys were hanging out prior to the competition. They were in a giving mood. They saw some homeless people on the street, and they helped them get some food. They also gave to a local charity organization. They felt blessed to be able to give.

At the regionals, the boys tied with a team they had met the day before. They had a feature on the SSR to show in case of a tie. But the boys decided to give the prize to the other team. The team expressed that they would use the \$10,000.00 to send food and safety items to their families in another country.

When the event was over, the boys were approached by a movie company. They wanted to use SSR in their next sci-fi movie. The sign-on agreement far exceeded \$10,000.00. When you give for the right reasons, God blesses those actions.



You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)



INSPECT

Acts 1:6-8; 2 Corinthians 8:3-9

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

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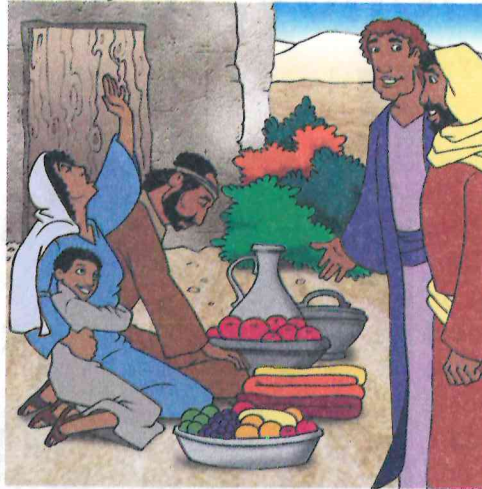
3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. 5 And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. 6 So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. 7 But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 8 I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.



INTERSECT

IN TODAY'S SCRIPTURE VERSES, THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS SPEAKING TO THE CHURCH IN CORINTH. Paul (formerly Saul) was one of Jesus' primary disciples used to spread the Good News about Jesus and create the church. When Jesus met Saul on the road to Damascus, Saul was on a mission to imprison and/or kill Christians. Following this divine event, Jesus sent Paul (renamed by Jesus) on a different mission to preach, teach, and create believers for the kingdom of God.

God chooses certain people to fulfill special missions.



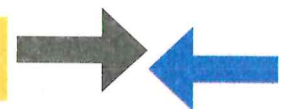
Moses was chosen for the mission of leading the Israelites out of Egypt. God chose Jonah to go to Nineveh on a mission; Jonah rejected the call the first time, but God gave him a second chance—and he completed the mission.

He chose Abraham to go on a mission when Abraham was seventy-five years old. The Holy Spirit chose two people to send on a mission—the first missionary journey: "While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the

Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off" (Acts 13:2-3).

These people whom God called may have had the experience required to complete the mission. Abraham had great faith, Moses was obedient, and Paul had experienced the divine event at Damascus. Likewise, God will equip you for what He needs. Live a life pleasing to God and be ready for the call . . . if God chooses you.

Inside Out



It is key to understand who wrote the books of the Bible and why. In light of this, respond to the questions below. You may do so on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Who wrote the book of Acts? Why?
2. Who wrote the book (letter) of 2 Corinthians? Why?
3. What does 2 Corinthians 8 mean for Christian values around wealth?



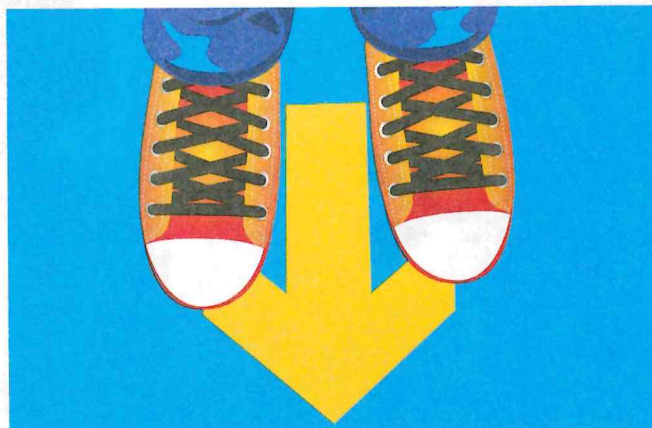
THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

Though Paul was pleased with the Corinthians' giving in certain areas (which exceeded expectations in some cases), their monetary giving did not match the others. Paul urged them to excel in this area also. Although you are a youth and may be serving the church and God in other areas, plan to set aside a monetary sacrifice to participate in Sunday tithes and offerings. Start small, giving as you can afford to give—eventually working your way up to 10 percent. If you have a job making \$200.00 a week, give \$20.00 to God's house.



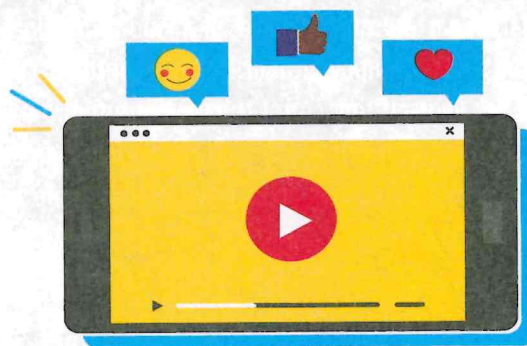
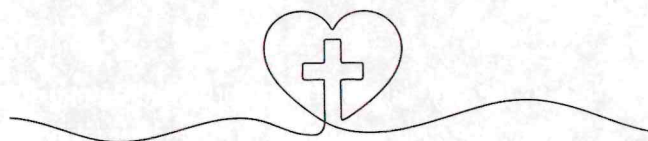
CONNECT

The Bible says that God loves a cheerful giver. "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, . . . will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38). Your parents or you may have acquired wealth . . . but look what really happened: "You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth" (Deuteronomy 8:17-18).



STEPPING OUT!

This is your challenge for the week: (1) Explain what 2 Corinthians 8 means for Christian values and wealth. (2) Discuss the "Great Commission" (see Matthew 28:18-20) as relevant to your role in sharing God's message of love, forgiveness, and repentance.



MEDIA MISSION

Visit the following online site to check out the video that features the song "Send Me" by William McDowell: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qqu2hPJtuA8&list=RDQqu2hPJtuA8&start_radio=1.

Your other mission is to search online for a song, poem, phrase, picture, additional Scripture, video, or anything else that speaks to the lesson Scripture passages.

