



# Bible Study

Rather than expect one person to be an expert in reading the Bible, we believe the Holy Spirit guides each of us to understand the scriptures together. To that end, this Bible study is designed so that small groups of 3-5 people will prayerfully listen to and discuss the passage. The passage will be read a total of three times by a different person in the group. A focusing question has been provided to guide the conversation after each reading. When the reader has finished allow a few moments for silent reflection. The facilitator of the group will invite someone to share their thoughts related to the question and passage of scripture. That person will invite another in the group to share. Each person can "pass for now," meaning they are still reflecting on the question; or they may "pass," meaning they do not wish to share. In settings where there is more than one group, a time should be provided for each group to share a summary of their conversations with everyone.

## 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches in Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints--and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that,

### Discussion Questions

After first reading: *What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?*

After second reading: *How would you describe the Macedonian church? How do congregations share in the ministries and sufferings of other Christian communities?*

After third reading: *What are you invited to do, be, or change through this passage?*

