

# Growth Teams

**Week Beginning  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

## **Growth Team News**

The daytime Growth Teams are continuing, focussing on 2 Corinthians. Why not join one if you can?

There are no official evening Growth Teams running, but why not get together with one or two others and discuss together today's talk using the questions in this sheet? It could even be a commitment for Lent!

## **Going deeper**

Deuteronomy is a record of a speech given by Moses to Israel just before he died and they entered the Promised Land. It tells them how they need to live in the land in order to receive God's blessing. This section deals with the issue of 'firstfruits' (giving God the first part of any harvest) and tithes (giving 10%). The Levites were those who worked in the tabernacle or temple.

## **Read Deuteronomy 26:1-15**

4. What did the ceremony of the 'firstfruits' help the Israelites to remember? Why was it important to do this?
5. How might the attitude described in verse 11 help people to be more generous?
6. How much did God command the Israelites to give away?
7. Which different groups were to benefit from this gift. Why were these groups chosen?
8. This passage contains explicit commands for the Israelites who settled in the land of Canaan (about 1400BC?). What principles carry across to Christians living in twenty-first century Ramsgate.

***Now do the applying it to our lives questions...***



**Growing in Christ  
to glorify God  
and enjoy Him forever.**

## The gift that keeps on giving...

2 Corinthians 8:1-15 (page 1162)

Space to take notes on the talk

### The Macedonians:

An \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

To the Corinthians: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ is:

1. Acting \_\_\_\_\_

2. Attitude \_\_\_\_\_

3. Abundance \_\_\_\_\_

### Starter question

- ❖ What is the most remarkable act of giving you have seen in others?

### Responding to the talk

1. What about this week's talk do you most hope to talk about?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-8
  - a. Why were the Macedonians so generous?
  - b. What was remarkable about their generosity?
  - c. Why does Paul tell the Corinthians about the Macedonians?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 8:9
  - a. What riches did Jesus give up? (cf. Phil. 2:6-8)
  - b. What did we gain from Jesus's poverty? (cf. Rom. 5:9-11; 6:23)
  - c. How does this verse mirror 5:21?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 8:10-15
  - a. What makes a gift acceptable to God?
  - b. What is the goal of generosity between Christians?
  - c. How does the story of the manna in the desert illustrate this? (cf. Exo. 16:11-18)

*You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.*

### Applying it to our lives

9. A Christian friend is already committed to spending most of their income on mortgage / rent, paying back loans etc. What steps can they take to become more generous in the short and long term?
10. A friend from another church complains that the church is always asking for more money. How might you counsel them?