



STUDY GUIDE

ADVENT CONSPIRACY 12.08.2019

[start with prayer]

Missions Prayer Focus this week:
Nick & Joanne Maroulis—YFC Brooklyn Campus Life

[setting it up]

What was the one gift you remember getting for Christmas last year?

What was a fourth or fifth gift you received last year? Do you remember those?

Do you remember a time when you got exactly the gift you wanted? How did you feel when you received it? How long was it before you were tired of the present you got?

Many of us don't remember many or most of our gifts because the gifts weren't something we necessarily wanted or needed. Spending Less isn't a call to stop giving gifts; it's a call to stop spending money on gifts we won't remember in less than a year. America spends around \$600 billion dollars during the Christmas season, and much of that is joyless and goes right onto a credit card. By spending wisely on gifts, we free ourselves from the anxiety associated with debt so we can take in the season with a full heart.

Open in prayer.

[digging deeper]

Ask someone to read 2 Corinthians 8:9. Ask another person to read it a second time (preferably in a different version, if possible). Ask another person to share the passage without looking at the Bible in their own words with the group (others can help fill in what's missing).

What does 2 Corinthians 8:9 teach us about Jesus? (Use Philippians 2:5-11 for insight into the riches Jesus forsook and for insight into the poverty that Jesus embraced.)

Ask different people in your group read the following passages:

Philippians 2:5 Ephesians 5:1-2 1 Peter 2:21 1 John 2:6 Romans 8:29

Ask them to identify the phrases in these passages that indicate we are to imitate Jesus. Write down these phrases on a Giant Post-it.

(over)

In light of the fact that we are to imitate Jesus, what does 2 Corinthians 8:9 teach us about the way we are supposed to live?

Write on a Giant Post-it the Big Idea from this week's message: "Even though I could spend more, I will spend less so that others, because I spend less, will be able to receive more." In light of the truths found in 2 Corinthians 8:9, what are some things that we should want others to receive?

[living it out]

Using a Giant Post-it, brainstorm with your group and come up with a list of at least 10 ideas about how a believer might spend less this Christmas season. Now, ask each person to identify the one idea that he or she is most likely to implement this year.

How might Spending Less help you Worship Fully during Christmas?

In light of what we have learned, what is God calling you to do this week as an obedient child of God? (Everyone writes down an "I will" statement.)

Who will you share these truths with this week?

What is going to be a challenge for you this week?

Close in prayer.