

Lesson Aim: To discuss how turning our hearts toward God can lead to greater generosity.



connecting

Prayer: Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

Icebreaker: What was one of the most lavish gifts you ever received?

1. **READ 2 Chronicles 31:1 & 2 Kings 18:3-4.** Thinking back on last weekend's message, why was all that happened here such a big deal?
2. Scott stated "when God is distant from you, it's because you moved (not God)". What are some ways you have experienced this to be true in your life?
3. **READ 2 Corinthians 7:6-11.** These verses in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians give us a New Testament example of how turning out hearts toward God leads to spiritual awakening. What stands out to you about the spiritual momentum of the Corinthians as Paul describes it?



growing

4. What might be some indicators that a person's spiritual momentum is heading in the wrong direction? In the right direction?
5. Which way is the spiritual momentum going in your life? Toward God or away from Him? Why?
6. One way to turn our hearts toward God is by serving others in the love of Christ. Is there a possibility that you as a LifeGroup can serve together for the *Be the Church Serve Day* on Saturday, April 28?
7. **READ 2 Corinthians 31:2-12 & 20-21.** What stands out to you about how the people responded?



sewing

8. Have you ever had a time of spiritual awakening that resulted in generosity? Tell the group about it.
9. **READ 2 Corinthians 8:1-5.** The Macedonians provide a New Testament example of how turning hearts toward God resulted in generosity. What types of circumstances were the Macedonians in that might have prevented them from being generous? What might be some equivalent-type circumstances people find themselves in today?

10. What might be some ways you can apply the example of the Macedonians to your own life?



reaching

Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.

Evil Goes Out, Giving Goes Up

Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor

April 15, 2012



2 Chronicles 31

INTRODUCTION

- Joshua 24:15 - *If serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.*
- 2 Chronicles 29: Getting the House of God back in order
- 2 Chronicles 30: Calling all Judah back to worship God (cf. 2 Chronicles 7:14)
- 2 Chronicles 31: Evil goes out, giving goes up

NOTE THE SPIRITUAL MOMENTUM

- ❶ Consecration of the Levites & Priests (2 Chronicles 29)
- ❷ Removal #1 - "Assyrian-Design" pagan altar in front of the Temple
- ❸ Removal #2 - Defilement around the Temple
- ❹ Removal #3 - Defilement inside the Temple
- ❺ Recommencement of the Daily Sacrifice & Worship
- ❻ Calling all Judah & Israel back to worship God at the Passover (2 Chronicles 30)
- ❼ Removal #4 - Defilement from Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 30:14)
- ❽ Forgiveness, Reconciliation, Healing, Contagious Joy
- ❾ Removal #5 - Destroying the High Places throughout Judah & Israel (2 Chronicles 31:1)

PRINCIPLE A: When God is distant from you, it's because you moved. (James 4:8)

PRINCIPLE B: When God comes in, evil must go out. (Proverbs 8:13)

PRINCIPLE C: For God to have the pre-eminent place in your life, even the residual garbage must
go.

- ▶ Hezekiah removed the High Places (2 Kings 18:3-4a)
- ▶ Hezekiah destroyed Nehushtan (2 Kings 18:4b)

PRINCIPLE D: When you get a proper vision of God, it will change your giving patterns.

- ▶ Five months of piling up offerings in heaps (2 Chronicles 31:2-12a)
- ▶ The spiritual temperature of Judah went through the roof! (2 Chronicles 31:20-21)

QUESTION: If everyone in this church gave as you give, would we be thriving as a church family?

2 Chronicles 31:20-21 - *This is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah, doing what was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God. In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered.*