

# **DINNER TABLE DEVOTIONS**

by anglican aid

Bible conversations  
on grace and giving

# OVERFLOWING GRACE!

## FOUR FAMILY DEVOTIONS ON 2 CORINTHIANS 8 AND 9

### *For parents and carers*

Here are some short devotions for your family from sections of 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, written for children in years 3-6.

The devotions aim to help families to learn how God's grace overflowed from the Macedonian Christians as they gave generously to help Christians in Jerusalem who were experiencing famine. These passages provide a wonderful model of how Christians can respond to the needs of Christians in far away places, and how this results in many giving thanks and praise to God.

We have included the passages from the New International Reader's Version of the Bible, which is aimed at a reading age of 6-10 years. You may prefer to read the passages in your own Bible.

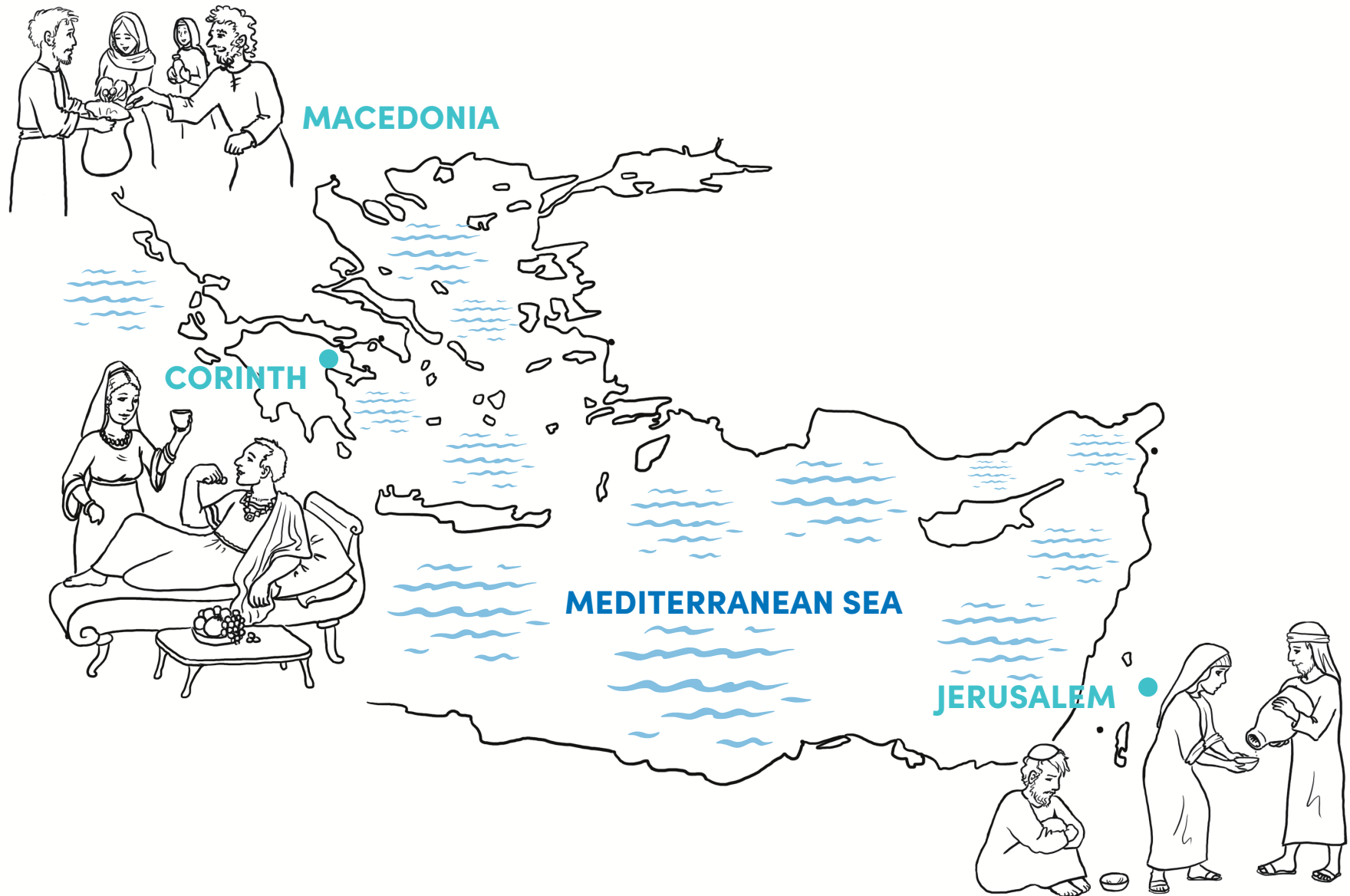
We pray that these devotions will help your family to grow in love for Jesus and others!

*This has been produced by Anglican Aid, the overseas aid, development and ministry support agency of Sydney Anglicans, in partnership with the global church.*



# HUNGRY CHRISTIANS IN JERUSALEM

A few years after Jesus died and rose from the dead, Christians in Jerusalem were having terrible problems - farmers weren't able to grow enough food. Food became very expensive and many people couldn't afford to buy it. People were hungry. Paul, a follower of Jesus, asked churches in other countries to give money to help the poor Christians in Jerusalem to buy food. We can read a letter he sent to some Christians in the city of Corinth.



# 1. JOYFUL GIVING

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9

In Paul's letter to Christians in Corinth, he tells them about some poor Christians in Macedonia that did something very surprising. You can read about it here or in your own Bible (2 Corinthians 8:1-9):

**1** Brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given to the churches in Macedonia. **2** They have suffered a great deal. But in their suffering, their joy was more than full. Even though they were very poor, they gave very freely. **3** I tell you that they gave as much as they could. In fact, they gave even more than they could. Completely on their own, **4** they begged us for the chance to share in serving the Lord's people in that way. **5** They did more than we expected. First they gave themselves to the Lord. Then they gave themselves to us because that was what God wanted. **6** Titus had already started collecting money from you. So we asked him to help you finish making your kind gift. **7** You do well in everything else. You do well in faith and in speaking. You do well in knowledge and in complete commitment. And you do well in the love we have helped to start in you. So make sure that you also do well in the grace of giving to others. **8** I am not commanding you to do it. But I want to test you. I want to find out if you really love God. I want to compare your love with that of others. **9** You know the grace shown by our Lord Jesus Christ. Even though he was rich, he became poor to help you. Because he became poor, you can become rich.



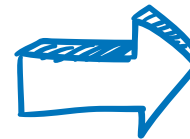
## QUESTIONS

1. How rich were the churches in Macedonia? (8:2)
2. How did the Christians in Macedonia feel about giving money to help other Christians? (8:1-5)
3. Can you think of any ways you can give something to help people who are having troubles?



## CURLY QUESTION

What do you think it means that Jesus became poor so we can become rich? (8:9)



## ACTION!

What would you like to think, feel or do differently after reading from Paul's letter to the Corinthian Christians? Pray that God will help you in this.

## PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you that Jesus left the glory of heaven to come to our world to be born as a baby. Thank you that he grew up to teach us and show us what you are like. Thank you especially that he died on the cross so we can be forgiven and live with you forever. Please help us to love other people like Jesus has loved us. Amen

# 2. CHEERFUL GIVING

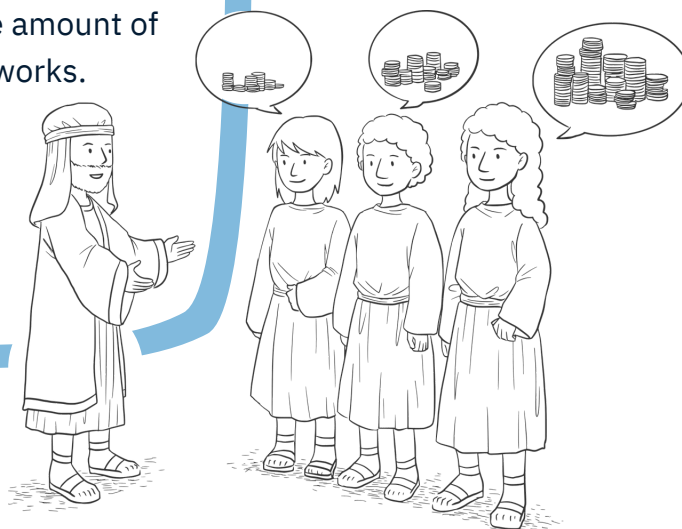
## 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7-11

Have you ever been made to share something when you didn't really want to? When Paul wrote his letter to the Christians in Corinth, he knew that many people have felt like that. You can read about it here or in your Bible (2 Corinthians 9:7-11)

**7** Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give. You shouldn't give if you don't want to. You shouldn't give because you are forced to. God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to shower all kinds of blessings on you. So in all things and at all times you will have everything you need. You will do more and more good works. **9** It is written, "They have spread their gifts around to poor people. Their good works continue forever."

**10** God supplies seed for the person who plants. He supplies bread for food. God will also supply and increase the amount of your seed. He will increase the results of your good works.

**11** You will be made rich in every way. Then you can always give freely. We will take your many gifts to the people who need them. And they will give thanks to God.



## QUESTIONS

1. Underline all the places you see God mentioned. What are some things you see in these verses that God gives us?
2. How does God want us to give? (v7)
3. What makes it hard to cheerfully share the things that you have? What makes it easier to cheerfully share the things that you have?



## CURLY QUESTION

What do you think Paul means when he says "God is able to shower all kinds of blessings on you"? (9:8)



## ACTION!

What would you like to think, feel or do differently after reading from Paul's letter to the Corinthian Christians? Pray that God will help you in this.



## PRAY

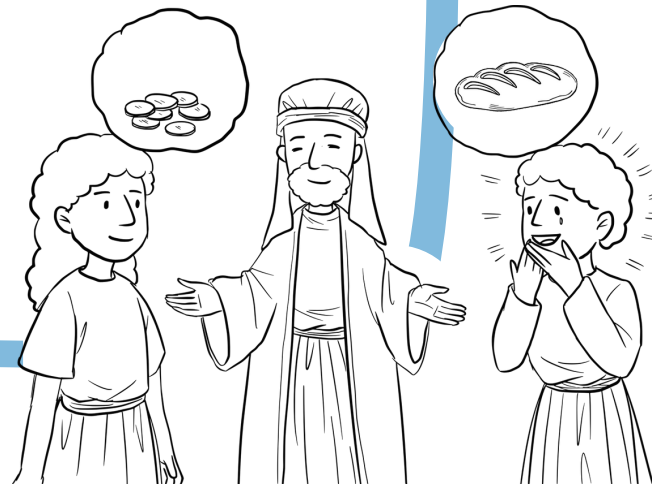
Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us everything we need. Please help us to be people who love to give and do good to others. Amen

# 3. OVERFLOWING KINDNESS

## 2 CORINTHIANS 9:12-15

When Christians share with other Christians, all kinds of lovely things happen. Keep reading Paul's letter to the Christians in Corinth here or in your Bible to find out what they are!

**12** Your gifts meet the needs of the Lord's people. And that's not all. Your gifts also cause many people to thank God. **13** You have shown yourselves to be worthy by what you have given. So other people will praise God because you obey him. That proves that you really believe the good news about Christ. They will also praise God because you share freely with them and with everyone else. **14** Their hearts will be filled with love for you when they pray for you. God has given you grace that is better than anything. **15** Let us give thanks to God for his gift. It is so great that no one can tell how wonderful it really is!



## QUESTIONS

What happens when Christians give money to help other Christians?

1. For God's people who receive the money? (v 12-14)
2. For God? (v 12-13)
3. For the people who gave the money? (v 14)



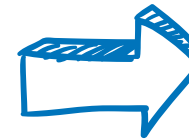
## CURLY QUESTION

How does sharing with others show that someone 'really believes the good news about Christ'? (v13)



## ACTION!

What would you like to think, feel or do differently after reading from Paul's letter to the Corinthian Christians? Pray that God will help you in this.



## PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us so many good things. Please help us to share the good things we have with other Christians so they will thank you too. Thank you for Jesus coming to earth to die so we can be forgiven and live with you forever - the best gift of all. Amen

# 4. DON'T GIVE UP

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:10-15

What are some reasons that people start doing something good, but then stop? Can you think of an example of this? Paul wanted the Christians in Corinth to keep going with the good things they had started. You can read about it here or in your own Bible.

**10** Here is my opinion about what is best for you in that matter. Last year you were the first to give. You were also the first to want to give. **11** So finish the work. Then your desire to do it will be matched by your finishing it. Give on the basis of what you have. **12** Do you really want to give? Then the gift is measured by what someone has. It is not measured by what they don't have.

**13** We don't want others to have it easy at your expense. We want things to be equal. **14** Right now you have plenty in order to take care of what they need. Then they will have plenty to take care of what you need. The goal is to even things out. **15** It is written, "The one who gathered a lot didn't have too much. And the one who gathered a little had enough."



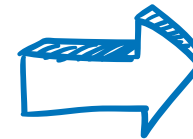
## QUESTIONS

1. What were the Christians in Corinth first to do? (v10)
2. What does Paul want them to do now? (v11)
3. The Christians in Corinth were quite rich. Why does Paul think they should give money to help the Christians in Jerusalem? (v13-14)



## CURLY QUESTION

What do you think Paul means by 'the one who gathered a lot didn't have too much. And the one who gathered a little had enough'?  
*Hint: In Exodus 16, we read about how God gave manna and quail for the Israelites to gather for their daily food. Amazingly, no matter how much was gathered, everybody had just what they needed, no more or less.*



## ACTION!

What would you like to think, feel or do differently after reading from Paul's letter to the Corinthian Christians? Pray that God will help you in this.

## PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us good things to share with others who don't have as much. Please help us to never get tired of loving others and doing good. Amen

## **P.S** Did the Christians in Corinth end up giving money to help the Christians in Jerusalem?

Yes! And they did it happily.

We know because we can read a letter in the Bible that Paul wrote to Christians in Rome. He said, “The believers in Macedonia and Achaia\* were pleased to take an offering. It was for those who were poor among the Lord’s people in Jerusalem. They were happy to do it.” (Romans 15:26,27).

*\*The capital of Achaia is the city of Corinth*

## **ABOUT ANGLICAN AID**

**Anglican Aid** is the overseas aid, development and ministry support agency of Sydney Anglicans in partnership with the global church. Today, we support 140 projects in over 40 countries.

## **OUR VISION**

To see the grace of God overflowing to a world in need.

## **OUR MISSION**

To strengthen churches and help transform communities by sharing resources and building relationships between Australian Christians and overseas people in need.

## **ABOUT THE BIBLE TEXT**

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