



## 3—Blessed To Be a Blessing

**Using the DVD:** If you are using the accompanying DVD\*, use the DVD to introduce the focus of the study. You will be asked to have a group member read **2 Corinthians 9:6-15**, and afterwards for the group to share what they find striking about the passage.

Depending on the way in which you want to structure your time, the following are some additional questions from which you could draw, regarding the **2 Corinthians 9** passage: 1) Does verse 6 teach that an equivalent is always given in return? What is Paul's point? 2) What defines a cheerful giver, according to verse 7? 3) What do you need to remember when you are tempted to give grudgingly, according to verses 8, 10, and 11? 4) What do you make of the "all-ness" of verse 8? 5) According to verses 12 and 13, what results from believers giving joyfully and extravagantly?

**Transition:** How have you experienced on of the truths of this passage?

2. Resume the DVD to pose the next question, "Of the three mistakes people make regarding God's blessings—they *ignore* them (or take them for granted), they *apologize* for them, or they *hoard* them—which have you struggled with most? Why?"
3. Besides giving financially, name some other tangible ways we can bless others.
4. Resume the DVD to pose the next set of questions, "Which of these ways do find easiest? Most difficult?"
5. How could you learn to give in a way that stretches you?"
6. Use the DVD to set up the final question for discussion, "As a small group, how could we give to someone in need?"

Identify a need (large or small) within your group or community and plan how, as a group, you can meet that need. [You shouldn't feel pressured to participate, but keep in mind that Tom Holtz identifies a number of needy families within the community for "adoption" each Christmas.]

**Take It Home:** Honestly give some thought to the following questions: When God blesses me with more, am I more likely to raise my standard of living or increase my level of giving? How does my giving reflect (or not) my conviction that God is the owner of all that I have and my sole provider? If you are a reluctant giver, what can you do to become a joyful giver?

\*If you aren't using the DVD, simply read the passage and work through the questions provided in the study material.