STRENGTH in WEAKNESS

The Generous Church

The context:

Paul feels compelled to take an offering from the churches he has planted to the church in Jerusalem.

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (ESV)

¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. ² On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. ³ And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

Jerusalem church...

Corinthian church had started this work _____

"...who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it." (2 Cor. 8:10b)

Macedonian churches were ______ by Paul's boasting of Corinthian church.

"for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them." (2 Cor. 9:2)

Paul is ______ the Corinthians through the generosity of the Macedonians to be found faithful.

"But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be." (2 Cor. 9:3)

Commendation of Titus...

Lessons for a Generous Church:

A Generous church ______ first to the Lord (8:5)

Matthew 6:33, James 4:13-17, Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:23

We give our _____ to the Lord. (8:7)

"Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more." (1 Thess. 4:1-3a)

Genuine love must be the _____ for generosity. (8:8)

"Love bears all things," (1 Cor. 13:7a)

_____ (aka the church) are generous. (8:9)

"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" (1 John 3:16-17)

Philippians 2:4-8

Key point: Generosity is ______ of our love (2 Corinthians 8:9), and love is ______ of our salvation (1 John 3:10)

Churches ______ should be generous. (8:14)

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine." (Prov. 3:9-10)

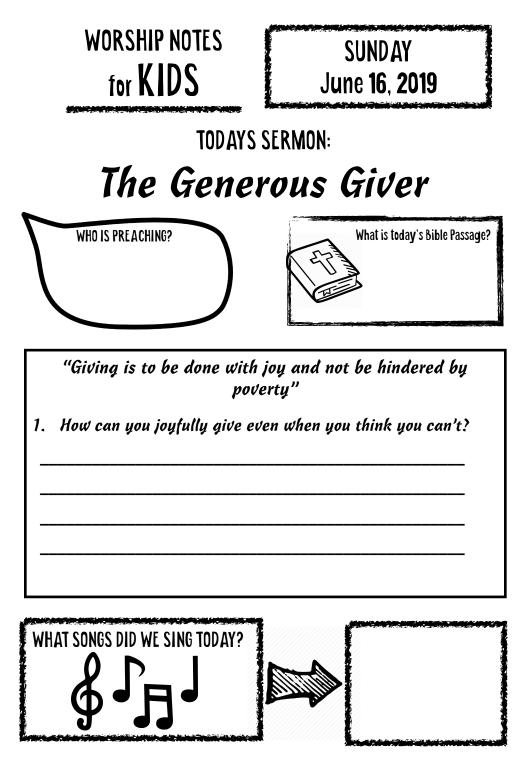
Stewardship includes ______. (8:20-21)

A Generous church sees the power in _____ with others in the Kingdom. (9:2)

"A three-fold cord is not quickly broken." (Eccl. 4:12b)

A Generous church gives ultimately for the ______. (9:12-15)

Application:



ON THE BACK OF THIS PAPER, DRAW A PICTURE OF SOMETHING YOU HEARD IN THE SERMON