



LOOP Study Guide

You Have Access Week 9

Key Scripture:

Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8;
Romans 10:14

Theme: Empty Seats Cost Something

Main Idea

Every empty seat represents a person God loves deeply. Generosity is not about funding a building—it's about making room for transformed lives. Someone sacrificed so we could experience Jesus, and now we have the opportunity to help someone else find Him too.

L — LOOK BACK

Icebreaker

What's something in your life that you enjoy now, but didn't fully realize the cost or sacrifice behind until later?

Examples:

- A family sacrifice
- A mentor investing in you
- A parent working extra hours
- Someone helping you spiritually
- A scholarship, opportunity, or gift

Early Group Discussion

- Have you ever benefited from something you didn't personally pay for?
- Why do people tend to value things differently when sacrifice is attached?
- Who helped create a "seat" for you spiritually?

O — OBSERVE

Read Together

- **2 Corinthians 9:6–8**
- **Romans 10:14**
- **Romans 5:8**

As a group discuss:

- What stands out most from these passages?
- What does generosity reveal about the heart?
- According to Romans 10, why does intentional outreach matter?

O — OWN THE MESSAGE

BIG IDEA #1 — Someone Paid So You Could Sit Here

The message began with a powerful truth: “You didn’t reach yourself—someone reached you.”

Every person sitting in church today is benefiting from:

- Someone’s prayers
- Someone’s sacrifice
- Someone’s generosity
- Someone’s invitation
- Someone’s obedience

Key Thought

What you don’t pay for, you often don’t value.

Spiritually, many of us are living in blessings someone else helped make possible.

Discussion Questions

- Who helped shape your faith journey?
- Can you think of someone who sacrificed so you could experience Jesus?
- Why is it easy to forget the cost behind ministry?
- How would church feel different if we constantly remembered that someone paid for our seat?

BIG IDEA #2 — Empty Seats Represent Real People

The empty chair illustration reminds us: Empty seats are not empty.

They represent:

- Broken people
- Searching people
- Hurting people
- Addicted people
- Lonely people
- Future stories of transformation

Key Thought: That chair isn’t furniture—it’s a future.

Discussion Questions

- Who comes to mind when you picture the “empty seat”?
- Why is it easy for churches to focus on comfort instead of mission?
- How does seeing empty seats as people change your perspective?
- What would happen if every believer took responsibility for one empty seat?

Personal Reflection

Write down the name of one person you believe God wants you to reach:

BIG IDEA #3 — Giving Is Participation, Not Pressure

Paul teaches in 2 Corinthians 9 that giving should not come:

- reluctantly
- under compulsion
- from guilt

Instead, generosity flows from understanding what's at stake.

Key Thought: Giving is not pressure—it's participation.

We are not just funding ministry. We are participating in changed lives.

Discussion Questions

- Growing up, what messages did you hear about giving?
- Why do people sometimes resist generosity?
- How does generosity connect to mission?
- What changes when giving becomes purpose-driven instead of obligation-driven?

BIG IDEA #4 — Generosity Moves the Mission Forward

Romans 10 asks:

“How can they hear without someone preaching to them?”

People don't usually find Jesus accidentally. They are reached intentionally.

Generosity helps:

- create environments
- support ministry
- reach families
- impact kids
- create opportunities for salvation

Key Thought: You're not giving to a church—you're giving through a church.

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever experienced someone investing spiritually in your life?
- What ministries or moments have impacted you personally at church?
- Why does mission always require sacrifice?
- What's the difference between attending church and helping build it?

BIG IDEA #5 — Don't Just Sit in a Seat... Fill One

The challenge of the message was clear: “The seat next to you has a name.”

Christianity was never meant to stop at receiving. We are called to participate in helping others encounter Jesus.

Key Thought

Every Soul • Every Street is not a slogan—it's a sacrifice.

Discussion Questions

- What practical steps can we take to help fill empty seats?
- Who in your life needs an invitation right now?
- What fears keep people from inviting others to church?
- How can this group become more intentional about reaching people?

P — PRACTICE

This Week's Challenge

Choose at least ONE step this week:

- ☐ Invite someone to church
- ☐ Pray daily for one specific person
- ☐ Share part of your testimony with someone
- ☐ Take a step in generosity
- ☐ Serve in a ministry area
- ☐ Encourage someone spiritually

Fill in the blank:

The “empty seat” I’m praying for this week is:

The step I will take this week is:

Prayer Time

Spend time praying together for:

- People far from God
- Courage to invite others
- Hearts that value generosity
- Freedom from selfishness or comfort
- Fresh Start Church to continue reaching people
- Specific names represented by “empty seats”

Closing Thought

Jesus paid the ultimate price so you could have a place in God's family.

Now we have the opportunity to help someone else find theirs.