

Paul's world Life in Corinth – *GENEROSITY A fair balance*



Understanding the historical context of Paul's letters in the Bible

Look around you

Do you know what a famine is?

It's when people don't have enough to eat, and it happens when food doesn't grow because there's not enough rain. If there's no rain for several years, and there is nothing left over from previous years, people become weaker and weaker. Unless they receive help, they may die of starvation.

When these terrible situations happen, big charities like Christian Aid and Oxfam ask us to give money so that people can be given food.

Perhaps you have taken part in a fundraising event to help others, such as Children in Need? People give money to help others they have never met.



Imagine

Paul asks the Christians in Corinth to collect money for the Christians in Jerusalem who were facing a famine.

This is what God is like, Paul says, always generous.

We should reach out and take care of one another because God reached out to us when Jesus came into the world.

And it is important not just to think about being generous, but to actually do it!



Did you know?

Famines happened in Jerusalem at this time because of crop failures, wars, and uprisings against the Roman rulers. Some small clay pots and a lamp have been found near the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Archaeologists think that people might have hidden the pots so they could eat in secret, and other desperately hungry people couldn't steal their food.



Paul's second letter to the Corinthians

A nugget to explore with children:
Chapter 8, verses 13b-15

It is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, 'The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.'