

Stressed

One Step Further Discussion/Devotional Guide Week 4

- **What is one of the biggest sacrifices you have ever made? How did making that sacrifice impact you?**

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD Almighty, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you!

Malachi 3:10 (NLT)

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Dedicate to me all the firstborn sons of Israel and every firstborn male animal. They are mine."

Exodus 13:1-2 (NLT)

All firstborn sons and firstborn male animals must be presented to the LORD. A firstborn male donkey may be redeemed from the LORD by presenting a lamb in its place. But if you decide not to make the exchange, the donkey must be killed by breaking its neck. However, you must redeem every firstborn son.

Exodus 13:12-13 (NLT)

Key Thought: We learn two important things from Exodus 13:1-2, 12-13:

1.) The Firstborn must be sacrificed or redeemed and 2.) The Firstfruits must be offered.

- **What are some of the things you have lost because you did not give to God first?**
- **What are some of the things that keep you from giving to God first? How can you remove these things from your life?**
- **In what ways do you feel unclean currently? How can you become clean with God?**

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV)

A tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to him as holy.

Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)

In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

Genesis 4:3-5 (NIV)

- **What does tithing currently look like for you?**
- **What are some of the blessings that you have experienced as a result of tithing? What makes these blessings so special?**
- **Why do you think it is so important that we give our tithe to God first before anything else?**
- **How have you seen tithing impact your faith in God?**
- **What changes do you need to make today to ensure your tithe is the first thing you give to God?**

And in the future, your children will ask you, 'What does all this mean?' Then you will tell them, 'With mighty power the LORD brought us out of Egypt from our slavery. Pharaoh refused to let us go, so the LORD killed all the firstborn males throughout the land of Egypt, both people and animals. That is why we now offer all the firstborn males to the LORD—except that the firstborn sons are always redeemed.

Exodus 13:14-15 (NLT)

- **What kind of legacy could you leave for your family and those you influence through your example of tithing?**

Final Thought: What releases God's blessing is not the amount we give, but the order in which we give. If you're reluctant to return 10% to God because you think you can't make it on 90%, remember God can do more with 90% of your income than you could ever do with 100%! If you are not already doing so, put God to the test and start tithing on a regular basis. Not only will you experience the blessings of God through tithing, but you will also leave a legacy that will impact your family for generations to come.

Challenge

Do what Malachi 3:10 says and put God to the test when it comes to tithing by enrolling in the 3 month tithing challenge. To take the challenge, simply commit to tithing for 90 days. If you do not experience God's blessings during that time, then stop tithing at the end of the challenge and your money will be refunded to you. To learn more about the challenge or to sign up, go to www.nlbc.org/giving.

Additional Resources

Master your finances by enrolling in Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. In this program, Dave will teach you Biblical principles that are designed to help you get out of debt and stay out of debt. You will also learn principles designed to help you build wealth and become a cheerful giver. We will offer this course at New Life Bible Church in the coming weeks. If you're ready to get started now, you can take the course online at <https://fpuonline.daveramsey.com>.

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- In what circumstances do you like to give someone a gift?

Explore

Read Deuteronomy 26:1-19.

- What was Israel commanded to give when they entered the land? (26:1-2)
- What were the people of Israel to say to the priest? (26:3)
- What did the priest set in front of the altar? (26:4)
- What did the Israelites declare to the Lord? (26:5-10)
- In what were the people of Israel to rejoice? (26:11)

- To whom was the tithe of the Israelites given? (26:12)
- What did the Israelites say to the Lord about their tithe? (26:13-15)
- What were the Israelites to observe carefully? (26:16)
- Who is the Lord's treasured possession? (26:18)

Reflect

- What is the purpose of tithing to the Lord?
- What does giving our time and resources to the Lord do for our heart?
- How is God pleased when we bless others with what He has given us?
- How are giving and following the commands of the Lord related?
- What does this passage say to you about carefully observing the commands of God?
- What blessings does God pour out when we honor Him with our giving?

Apply

- How can you specifically offer your resources to the Lord this week?