

GOD, MONEY & ME: Week 3 – The Tithe

Life Group Notes



CONNECT QUESTIONS

What is the longest race you have ever participated in?

How would you define success if you were a monkey?

Relevant Magazine “What would happen if the Church Tithed?” Did you know that only 10-25% Christians tithe (meaning 8 out of 10 don’t). However, imagine if everyone did tithe - \$165 BILLION A YEAR!

- Relieve global hunger, starvation & deaths from preventable disease in 5 years (\$25 Billion)
- Eliminate illiteracy in 5 years (\$12 Billion)
- Solve all world’s water and sanitary problems (\$15 Billion)
- Fund all overseas mission work (\$1 Billion)
- Leaving \$100-\$110 Billion for spreading the good news of Jesus!

What do you think about these statistics? Why do you think so few Christians worldwide tithe?

What does the Bible say about the tithe? Check out **Genesis 14:18-20** and **Leviticus 27:30-32**.

When we consider our income – who (or what) gets the first portion? Often it is the government through taxes, or the bank through mortgages or kiwisaver – but we do have a choice about how our money is used and allocated. We can approach tithing in two ways – giving from out of our leftovers or giving from the first part of our finance. Which approach do you currently take in your giving? Do you believe this is the best approach? Why? Why not?

Check out these statements about tithing:

1. The tithe establishes God's sovereignty in our lives.
2. Tithing is investing in God's expression of His Kingdom on Earth
3. The tithe releases God's provision and protection in my life (Check out **Malachi 3:11**)

What stands out to you from these statements? Do you agree with these statements? Why/why not?

Check out 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. We need to keep a right attitude towards giving for God loves a cheerful giver! Why is our heart attitude towards giving so important? How can we ensure we keep the right attitude? What are some of the things that maybe challenge our attitude at times?

GIVING - What have you decided in your heart to give? Tithing is simply deciding ahead of time – “God I return to you what is yours, I trust you, You are good.” We give out of a decision, not a feeling. If we lived our life relying on our feelings, we wouldn't have much of a life! Tithing is just the beginning – a consistent principle that says “God is Sovereign in my life!”

Take an opportunity to share together your giving journey (principles rather than amounts), and any barriers or challenges you may be experiencing in the area of giving. Take time to listen to one another, and then pray for each other's financial situation.

PRAYER

Declare this over your life:

'God I am putting Your spirit over what's coming my way and over what I already have'.

Pray that as we give, God would expand and use our lives to extend His Kingdom, and that we would enjoy God's provision in our lives.