



On The Road to Tithing

Week of February 14, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Series Recap

These core beliefs bring the Kingdom of God to life:

1. Nothing matters more than my relationship with Jesus.
2. Nothing is impossible with God.
3. All is never small in the hands of God.

Message

Read Acts 2:42-47

When you've given your all to God, even your money is his. Jesus' life focused on living and loving with extravagant generosity. When you trust Jesus with your life, you can trust that God wants to give you a life as big as eternity. And when life takes on an eternal focus, tithing becomes easier. Tithing has always been God's plan because he wants our involvement in his Kingdom. In God's eyes, money is never about the money; it's about values, integrity and generosity. As New Testament believers, we are called to live and give with extravagant generosity.

Pray

God, you are a God of ultimate generosity. You have given me so much. Move my heart to answer your command to tithe; and then move me further to give with extravagant generosity.

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Getting Started

- Fill in the blank... "I sure LOVE me some _____!"
- Share a story about tithing and how God showed himself to be faithful to his promises in the area of your finances.

Listening Deeply

1. What are your thoughts about money? Do you think it is the *root of all evil*, or is it a *necessary evil*?
2. Jesus has a habit of turning everything on its head, including our ideas about money. In a world focused on "getting," Jesus wants us to focus on "giving." Why?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. Discuss this verse in terms of the concept that *real love lives in extravagant generosity*.
4. Tithing has always been God's plan. Share some evidence from Scripture proving that tithing is important to God. Do you find any Scripture refuting the idea of a tithe?
5. Read Matthew 6:21. A conversation about *money* is really a conversation about *values*. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
6. The early church lived in a way of extraordinary generosity (see Acts 2:45). How can our modern church practice this kind of generosity in a way that makes sense for our times?

Living Wide in Jesus

The church has been discussing what it means to Love Well, Live Jesus, and Believe Big. Your obedience in tithing is an opportunity to do those things—and to see God work in extraordinary ways with extraordinary generosity. The point of tithing is one of the only things God tells us to test him on: "...Test me on this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." (Malachi 3:10). If nothing is more important to you than Jesus, and nothing is impossible with God, then even your small tithe is huge in the hands of God. Test him on this! Increase your giving, manage your debt, and practice extravagant giving—then see how God will pour out so much blessing on you that you will not have room enough for it.