

Talk

For group discussion or personal reflection:

QUESTION 1

Every time we are paid, an inescapable moment of “worship” immediately follows. The first place to which we direct a portion of that money reveals something about what is “first” in our lives. What kinds of financial things are most likely to compete for “first place” in our hearts?

QUESTION 2

A true firstfruits sacrifice or offering requires faith. Typically, what sorts of thoughts, fears, or doubts try to undermine that kind of faith?

*There is one who scatters, yet increases more;
And there is one who withholds more than
is right, But it leads to poverty (Proverbs 11:24).*

QUESTION 3

God ensures that any *first thing* given to Him is never lost. But as the verse above reminds us, what we unjustly withhold from God, we will lose. In what ways have you seen this principle at work in your life or the life of someone close to you?

QUESTION 4

From God’s perspective, why would bringing the *first* tenth of your paycheck be any different than tithing a full 10% *after* all your bills are paid?

QUESTION 5

A 2007 survey by the Barna organization revealed that among Americans who had “prayed, read the Bible, and attended a church service in the previous week,” only 12% made a regular practice of tithing. Why do you think that this one area proves so difficult for Bible-believing, church-going people?

PRAY

Take some time as a group to lift one another up in the light of the truths discussed in this session.

Explore

Want to go deeper? Here is some food for thought, prayer, and journaling in the coming week.

KEY QUOTE

"If God gave us His first and best [Jesus], why wouldn't we give Him our first and best?" —Robert Morris

We all have areas in which we find it easier to trust the Lord and other areas in which we seem to struggle to rest in His promises. Respond to the following prompts.

I find it easy to trust God about . . .

Sometimes I struggle to trust God concerning . . .

KEY VERSES

Exodus 13:1, 2:11-16, Matthew 16:25, Proverbs 3:9, 10, Romans 11:16, 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2

What stands out to you as you read these verses?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through these scriptures?

KEY QUESTION

In practical, real-world terms, how could the principle of firstfruits be applied to your time rather than your money?

KEY PRAYER

Father, You gave Your first and best—Your only Son—so that I could be redeemed. Thank you. Now help me honor Your sacrifice by consistently bringing You the first and best of my time, my talent, and my financial increase.