

#1 Stressor: Money, #2 Conflict in relationship: Money

Financial success is not a number but a mindset. A God first mind set.

Why does my money matter to God?

- The focus of your heart matters to God. Luke 12:34
- You are valuable to God. 1 Corinthians 7:23
- My stuff affects my heart. Matthew 6:21

Me first mindset: Haggai 1:1-5

Money promises what only God can provide.

Security / Freedom / Power / Significance

Financial Success

Foundational principle: God is Good, God is smarter than me.

1 Peter 2:3; Isaiah 55:8-9

Two Mindsets

1. The Bag: not enough. Haggai 1:6
2. The Barn: infinitely more than enough. Proverbs 3:9-10

God first mindset Matthew 6:33

I will give God my first and my best so he can bless the rest.

Leviticus 27:30

The blessing of the tithe

Tithing teaches me to put God first. Deuteronomy 14:23

Tithing increases my faith in God. Malachi 3:10b

Tithing provides for God's work through His church.

Malachi 3:10a

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To prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great meeting as you come together to connect, encourage one another to grow and to see God change your life from the inside out!

Getting to Know You

Which of these statements creates more anxiety in you? "There is no God" or "there is no money"? Why?

If you were given \$100 to spend on you, what would you do?

If you were given a million dollars but you had to give it away, what would you do?

Going Deeper

Read Acts 20:35, Proverbs 11:24-25 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-11.

In these verses we learn that a key to financial success is being generous in giving to others. Describe a time when you gave generously. How did that act of giving make you feel and what did you learn from that experience?

Read Matthew 6:19-24 and Ecclesiastes 5:10.

These verses show us that we cannot serve both God and money, and that there is no satisfaction in the love of money. Describe a time in your life where you placed your trust in money and not in God. How did the situation ultimately turn out? What did you learn from this experience?

Read Proverbs 3:9-10 and Luke 16:10-13.

These verses illustrate the barn mindset and being faithful with the infinite blessings God has given us. Describe what generosity looks like in your life.

What are some specific areas in your life that you feel God is calling you to be more generous than you have before?

What are some specific ways that God has blessed your life?

Read Leviticus 27:30, Deuteronomy 14:23 and Malachi 3:7-11.

These verses emphasize the importance of giving the tithe to God and returning to God what is His. What does tithing currently look like in your own life?

Is it something you do well or is it something you struggle with?

How have you seen your life blessed because of your tithing?

How have you seen others blessed because of your tithing?

How has tithing affected your faith and relationship with God?

What things have you learned about God and His blessings?

Read Matthew 23:23 and Proverbs 3:9-10.

These verses instruct us to give to God His tithe first rather than waiting to give it last. It requires faith to give first. If you give last, it doesn't require faith. Describe a time when you gave first. What blessings resulted from your act of faith?

(cont.)

Have a plan. Proverbs 21:5; Luke 16:1-13; Matthew 25:14-30

Trust in God.

Obedience precedes blessing. Proverbs 22:9

What I do with my money has implications for...

- My relationship with God. Deuteronomy 14:23
- My Church's impact.
- Eternity. Matthew 6:19-21

God's first mindset requires faith to give first. If you give last it doesn't require faith. Proverbs 3:9-10; Romans 5:8

TAKE THE THREE MONTH TITHE CHALLENGE

1. Commit to put God as your first priority.

The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives. Deuteronomy 14:23 TLB

2. Trust God by committing to return to God 10% of your income for 90 days through giving on Sunday or online or by mail.

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Malachi 3:10a

3. Record what God has done in your Life for 90 days. Share the blessing by sharing your story.

'Test me in 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 3:10b

"...But from this day on I will bless you." Haggai 2:19