

**Week Five: “Getting Started”**

**Day One: “God’s Teaching on Giving”**

**Read: Leviticus 27:30; Matthew 23:23 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, pp. 141, 1111)**

**Read: *The Treasure Principle*, p. 59 to top of p. 61**

Reflect: How were you raised as a child to approach giving to God and to the church?

Dig: According to the passage in Leviticus, what was subject to the tithe?

How is the tithe described?

According to Matthew 23:23, how far did the Pharisees go in tithing?

What was Jesus’ attitude toward their behavior?

Does Jesus, in this passage, support tithing or release us from this Old Testament teaching?

Apply: Since “tithe” means a tenth and everything is supposed to be tithed, what change should you make?

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**Day Two: “Training Wheels”**

**Read: Malachi 3:6-12 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1069)**

**Read: *The Treasure Principle*, top of p. 61 to bottom of p. 66**

Reflect: Do you tend to see giving a full tithe to be a goal or the beginning of giving to God? Why?

Dig: According to Malachi, how does God describe not giving the tithe?

What reason does God give for tithing? See verse 10.

What blessings does God promise if we tithe? See verses 10-11.

In today’s world, what might be the equivalent of “pests devouring your crops”?

Apply: According to this passage, what is the reason that you are not doing as well as you should be doing?

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**Day Three: “Give it Now or Give it Later”**

**Read: James 4:13-17 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1447)**

**Read: *The Treasure Principle*, bottom of p. 66 to middle of p. 71**

Reflect: What line about God is inscribed on all American currency?

Is it true of your life?

Is it true of our nations' life?

Dig: How is our life described in this passage in James?

If we don't live under God's will and be obedient to that will, how does the Bible describe us?  
See verse 16.

How does this text conclude? See verse 17.

What do you think that closing has to do with money? See James 2:1-4 and James 4:1-3.

Apply: If you prayed and really meant this thought: “not my will but yours be done” in terms of your money, what would happen in your life?

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**Day Four: “Why Has God Entrusted So Much to Us?”**

**Read: 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1337)**

**Read: *The Treasure Principle*, middle of p. 71 to p. 76**

Reflect: When you have thought about this in the past, how would you have answered the question of why God gives you so much?

Dig: According to this passage, how is money described here?

According to this passage, why does God make us rich?

How will our giving reflect on God and his reputation?

Apply: Since “God prospers me not to raise my standard of living but to raise my standard of giving,” how much more should I be giving than in years past? (*The Treasure Principle*, p. 71)

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### **Day Five: “Neither Too Little Nor Too Much”**

Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study (see page 2 of this booklet), meditate on this scripture:

“...give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say ‘Who is the Lord? Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.” Proverbs 30:8-9 (NIV)

*Lectio divina* (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- reading: you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- meditation: you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.
- prayer: you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer - thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.