

C¹ onechurch

bigIdea

“Help me God!” How often have you said these words? Our prayers take on a completely new dimension when we’re experiencing hardships or difficulties. And there’s nothing wrong with that; God invites us to call out to Him and ask Him for help. But if we’re only involving Him when things go bad, we’re using Him like a vending machine. He becomes a last resort—a last priority—receiving only the leftovers of our attention once we’ve exhausted every other option.



BIG IDEA: Flip the list: Give, save, and live on the rest.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share with the group some of your goals when it comes to money and retirement. (What is your plan when it comes to debt {"I hope to alleviate ? amount of debt in ? months."} At what age do you hope to retire? How much money do you want to live on?)
2. Why are those previous questions hard to answer? Do you think most people have developed a plan when it comes to their money?
3. Most people aren't aware of how much of their income they are saving/spending, yet everyone lives off a percentage. How easy could it be to end up living off of more than you're actually making? Why does it make sense to choose to live off a percentage of your income? Why not make it your own choice and be intentional about living off of a predetermined amount?
4. There are 5 Options when it comes to Money:
 1. Spend
 2. Repay debt
 3. Pay taxes
 4. Save
 5. Give

Chris said, “Throughout the entire Bible, the way we *prioritize* our money represents an invitation to God or a cancellation to God.” How does the above list provide a system to cancel God working in our lives?

5. *Read Malachi 1:6-10.* What is most striking to you in this passage? What was God’s complaint against the Israelites? What type of sacrifices should they have brought (Leviticus 22:20-23)? How do we give God leftovers today?
6. *Read Malachi 3:7-10.* Why do you think God cares so much about money? What is the cause and effect in this verse? God’s people’s priorities were upside down.

“Return to me and I will return to you.” God is saying to His people,
“I would love to move in your direction, but I’m waiting for you to move in mine.”

7. Does it matter what percentages you choose to give, save, and live on? Have you heard any helpful suggestions from financial experts? Does the Bible offer any suggestions?
8. In the Jewish mind, what is a tithe? Why do you think God chose giving a percentage rather than a set amount?
9. In what areas of your life do you hope God would move in your direction? What priorities are you going to have to change for God to move?
10. *Read Matthew 6:24, 31-33.*
11. *Read Mark 12:41-44.* Why do you think Jesus was watching people give in the temple? What do you think motivated the widow to give? What is Jesus trying to teach His disciples?
12. What challenges might prevent you from setting apart a portion of your income and practicing “give, save, live”?
13. How can you manage the money and possessions that God has given you differently because of this study?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. Matthew 6:33