



LESSON #5 "What Do I Do With the Other 90%?"

Daily Devotions for the Week of Oct 29-Nov 3

Monday, October 29 Read Psalm 50

Once again we have here the reminder that God is not so much concerned about what we offer but rather about our attitude in heart and mind towards God.

Who does this psalm tell us God is? _____

Why is it important to take God very seriously indeed (hint: look closely at vv.10-11)? _____

Tuesday, October 30 Read Leviticus 27:30-34

It's easy to see Leviticus as a complicated list of laws and minutia, but taken together these are designed to keep the Israelites focused on two basic facts: 1.) that *everything* belongs to God and we are merely stewards and 2.) our gifts/offerings to God are to be the very best and really matter! Why are these points still important to us and what might church look like if we took them seriously? _____

Wednesday, October 31 Read Nehemiah 10:35-39

Nehemiah was leading the people of Israel in the rebuilding of their nation upon returning from exile. They began his process by reaffirming their covenant with God and committing to uphold and support that covenant with generous tithes and gifts. We too are called to support the work of the church in the world as members of the Body. Why are trust and generosity essential to this sort of discipleship? _____

Thursday, November 1 Read Luke 6:27-38

None of the commands in vv.27-36 are particularly easy to follow and are, by their very nature, sacrificial and demand that we trust in God's power and presence in order to make them happen. How might the call to

tithe and give generously be seen as a way to lean more upon God? _____

According to Jesus, what is the result of living generously? _____

Friday, November 2 Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Paul encouraged and organized the new Christian churches to support one another and the larger evangelistic ministry which is what the collection in vv.1-5 is about. While their Jewish forebears had the legalistic tithes, Paul reminds Christians that our giving is a response to the graciousness of God. What does your own expression of generosity say about your discipleship? _____

Saturday, November 3 Read Malachi 1:6-7 & 3:7-10

Note that this is probably the only passage in the Bible that openly challenges us to test God by being recklessly generous. What does this tell us about God? _____

What does this passage tell us about ourselves? _____

What does this passage say to you personally and how will you respond? _____

Small Group Discussion Guide

Session #5 "What Do I Do With the Other 90%?"

Part 1– Life Signs

- Share this with your group and discuss the following questions: *"The tithe was an ancient act of worship, a physical declaration of trust and dependence upon God. To give a tenth of the first of one's crops and flocks was to trust that God would protect and provide in further harvests. The tithe also served as a means to participate in and support the larger community (see the reading in Nehemiah & Leviticus readings from last week)."*
 - Few of us have orchards and flocks today. Is the concept of tithing still relevant? Why or why not?

Part 2– Fully Functional

- Read Malachi 1:6-7 & 3:7-10 and discuss the questions from Saturday 11/3. Can the members of your group share an experience or time when they engaged in risky trust of God? What was the result?
- The sermon last Sunday suggested that :*"The tithe is a reminder that all we own belongs to God and God expects us to use it for His purposes."*
 - Read Luke 6:27-38 and discuss the sermon

point in light of this. Do Christians need to tithe? Why or why not?

Part 3– Abundant Living

Most churches today struggle with a vicious catch 22– namely the demand for more and varied services (technology, childcare, youth activities, better facilities, quality and dedicated staff, etc.) while fewer give regularly while even fewer tithe. Why do you suppose this is and how should churches address it? Reflect on this in light of last Sunday's sermon point #2:

"To give recklessly and generously is to emulate the nature of God."

Lap #5



Ask the group to briefly discuss how they intend to support the "Crossing the Finish Line" Campaign. Share these facts:

1. 2016's renovation has given us a wonderful facility, especially for our children.
2. Retiring the \$800,000 debt will free \$78,000 annually that could be used for other ministries.
3. Each person is asked to commit to a regular gift above and beyond their normal budgetary giving as we seek to retire the debt in 3 years.

