



TITLE: The Generosity Test

BIG IDEA: Habitual generosity guarantees God's greatest blessings to your life..

ICE BREAKER: What is something you spent money on that you wish you had not?

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

Malachi 3:6-12

⁶ "I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty.

"But you ask, 'How are we to return?'

⁸ "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

"But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?'

"In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. 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 there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the Lord Almighty. ¹² "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty.

OPENING THOUGHTS:

The only time in the Bible God tells us to TEST HIM is in this passage and deals with financially prioritizing God's work. Less than 10% of Christians give 10% of their income to God's work. Could they be robbing God? Could they be robbing themselves and blocking their blessing?

MAIN POINTS:

1. RELY on God as your true source. 3:6 God is the unchanging one and therefore, absolutely trustworthy.
2. REPENT if you have robbed God through selfishness. 3:8 Prioritizing our wants over God's work distances us from God.
3. RESPECT the principle of the tithe. 3:10 100% belongs to God. 10% was to be given back to the Lord. The law of the Old Testament becomes the principle of the New Testament. The tithe stresses obedience, faith, generosity. It defeats the idol of the love of money.

4. RECOGNIZE the purpose of your tithe. 3:10 The Storehouse Truth - Your tithe provides spiritual and physical food for hungry people.
5. REJOICE in God's undeniable guarantee of overwhelming blessing for tithers. 3:10, 12 - You can't out-give God! Test me in this - I will prove it to you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How are the people robbing God?
2. What do think the Bible is telling us to do in order to TEST GOD? Why do you think God asks us to test him in this area?
3. What is keeping you from increasing your kingdom generosity?
4. What could you sacrifice for a month and give the money saved to God? Would you be willing to do it? Why or why not?

FURTHER STUDY:

CHALLENGE:

Increase your kingdom generosity to increase your blessing.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Father, you have given us all things including every heartbeat and breath. Thank you. You have given us the most costly gift in Jesus Christ. Thank you. Help us to transfer ownership of all we have over to your name. Help us to be generous and to grow in habitual giving to the point of a tithe and beyond. We want to invest our money in Heaven just like you taught us to do. We believe we can't out-give you and that habitual obedience in this area will open the floodgates of heaven so that blessings will flow upon our lives like a river. We believe your promise, Lord. Help us as we TEST YOU in this!