

Session 3

How to Live With a God-First Mentality

Last session, we learned that God has established the principle of sowing and reaping. This week, Pastor Todd takes us one step deeper by showing us what it means to put God first in every area of our lives.

Throughout Scripture, God calls His people to trust Him first, not only with their hearts, but also with their time and their resources. The practice of tithing isn't about giving money away; it's about cultivating a God-first mentality that shapes every area of life.

As we study God's Word together, we'll discover that tithing is more than a financial decision; it's a spiritual principle that teaches us to trust God, experience His promises, and live under His blessing.

Connect

Take a few minutes to catch up with one another and welcome anyone who is new to the group.

1. Who has influenced your understanding of money, generosity, or stewardship the most? What impact did they have?
2. When you hear the phrase "put God first," what area of life is easiest for you to trust Him with? What area is most challenging?

Watch (22 minutes)

As you watch the message, complete the notes below.

The Purpose of Tithing

"The purpose of tithing is to always put _____ first in your life."

God's Promise

God invites His people to:

- Bring the _____ into His house.
- _____ Him in this.

What happens when we put God first?

God promises to:

- Open the _____ of Heaven.
- Pour out His _____.
- Rebuke the _____.
- Protect the fruit of our _____.

Three truths about the tithe:

1. The tithe is a _____.
2. The tithe is a _____.
3. The tithe is a _____.

Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the Lord your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the Lord your God always.

— Deuteronomy 14:23

“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.”

— Malachi 3:10

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;

— Proverbs 3:9

Discuss

1. Pastor Todd said that “the purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first.” Why do you think God chose our finances as one of the primary ways to develop trust and obedience?
2. Read Malachi 3:10 together. God invites His people to “test Me in this.” Why do you think so many people struggle with this “test”?
3. Pastor Todd described the tithe as a tenth, a test, and timeless. Which of those three truths stood out to you most, and why?
4. Putting God first affects far more than our finances. What is one practical way you can intentionally put God first this week in your time, priorities, relationships, or resources?

“The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your life.”

- Pastor Todd Mullins

“There are so many Christians wanting the promise, but they’re not living the principle.”

- Pastor Todd Mullins

Apply

This week, ask yourself:

Am I truly living with a **God-first** mentality?

Use this space to write down your answer:

Choose one or two of the following next steps that best describe where God is leading you?

- ☐ **Pray** — Ask God to help you trust Him more fully and put Him first in every area of your life.
- ☐ **Read** — Spend time this week reading Malachi 3:6-12 and Proverbs 3:9-10, asking God what He wants to teach you.
- ☐ **Trust** — Identify one area where fear has been keeping you from putting God first, and surrender it to Him.
- ☐ **Take a Step** — If you've never tithed before, prayerfully consider taking your first step of obedience and trusting God with His promise
- ☐ **Encourage** — Share with someone how you've seen God's faithfulness when you've chosen to put Him first.

Personal Reflection

What is one area of your life where **God** is inviting you to trust Him more by putting Him first?

Use this space to write down your answer:

Pray

Share prayer requests and pray for one another.

Pray specifically that God would help each person:

- Trust Him more deeply.
- Put Him first in every area of life.
- Experience His faithfulness as they walk in His principles.
- Grow in generosity and freedom.

Next Steps

Before next week's session:

Read:

- Deuteronomy 14:23
- Malachi 3:10
- Proverbs 3:9

Complete this week's application challenge.