



## **Faithful**

### **WEEK 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE**

#### **OVERVIEW**

In this message of the series entitled, *Living On Full*, we will learn how to grasp the principle of the first. We will explore three firsts found in Scripture and how honoring God through these will help us live on full rather than running on fumes.

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

God is faithful. God is our Source. He is our Protector. Proverbs 3:9-10 says: *Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.* First is defined as: to be head of, the original, to be before all, in preference to something else, the beginning, the foremost.

- Why does God desire to be first in our lives?
- How can we place God first?

### **Three Firsts:**

1. The firstborn is God's.

Romans 5:8b says: *while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* During Bible times, an unclean animal had to be redeemed by the sacrificing of a clean animal. Jesus was God's firstborn. He was the spotless Lamb who had to be sacrificed for the unclean – us!

- Why is it important to remember that Christ died for us while we were still sinners?

1 Corinthians 1:9 says: *God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.* God gave Jesus in faith; He did not wait to see if we would accept or reject Him.

2. The firstfruits are God's.

Proverbs 3:9 says: *Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase.* We show trust in God by tithing. We should honor God with the first of any increase we receive.

- What is the significance of giving God the first of our increase and not what we have left over?

Joshua 6:19 says: *"But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord."* God is saying to us like He said to Joshua, "If you'll give Me the first, I'll bless the rest."

3. The tithe is God's – and must be first.

Leviticus 27:30 says: *And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord.* The tithe means a tenth.

- How does what we spend our money on reflect who or what is important to us?

Matthew 6:33 says: *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.* Throughout Scripture, God reminds us to put Him and His Kingdom first.

Ten Benefits of Tithing:

- ◇ God is pleased by your obedience.
- ◇ God is honored by your faithfulness.
- ◇ Tithing helps to keep your priorities straight.
- ◇ You are eligible for a blessing.
- ◇ It guards us from selfishness.
- ◇ God loves a cheerful giver.
- ◇ It supports the Great Commission.
- ◇ It ensures that our needs will be met.
- ◇ It helps to meet the needs of God's people.
- ◇ It reminds us that God is the true Owner and Giver of all that we have.

## LIFE CHALLENGE

This week, pray and ask God to reveal to you areas that you need to put Him first. Commit to three practical ways to honor God with your firstfruits of your time, talent, and treasure.