



Breaking A Limitation Mindset WEEK 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In this message of the series *Overflow*, we will talk about **Breaking A Limitation Mindset** that's holding us back in life.

DISCUSSION

Our thoughts can lead us to a place of **breakthrough** or to a place of **breakdown**—resulting in **debt**, **lack**, and **fear**. God wants us to experience a breakthrough in every area of our lives and that includes our finances. The problem is, a lot of people have unbiblical mindsets when it comes to finances. God wants to help us shift those and help us live with a biblical mindset regarding money.

Tithing is that ancient biblical practice that keeps God #1 in our lives rather than money. It's all about trust and who is #1. There's a powerful passage in Scripture that teaches us the importance of putting God first with the tithe, found in **Malachi 3:8-12**: ***"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me? But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," says the Lord of hosts; "And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land," says the Lord of hosts.*** Malachi had deep concerns because of both the spiritual and financial poverty he saw in the life of God's people. He saw they had a limitation mindset. The people had grown complacent in their worship of God and were putting other things first—ahead of Him.

- What are the two initial robberies Malachi records in the above passage?
- What were the results of these robberies?
- Why do you think the biblical practice of tithing and putting God first is the antidote to lack and a limitation mindset?

Let's look at **Three Things Our Tithe Does**:

1. Tithing provides for God's work through His Church.

Malachi 3:10a says: ***"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse..."*** The storehouse has always been the Old Testament picture of the New Testament church. ***"...that there may be food in My house..."*** The church has been the primary source of spiritual nourishment in your life. Spiritual food is what you're receiving today—the **Word of God**. As you return the tithe, the church grows and expands, and provides a great environment which has the best possible team to equip you and make an impact in your life and community.

- How have you personally experienced the benefits of the tithe in church?
- What have you seen happen in the lives of others as a direct result of the tithe?

2. Tithing increases our faith in God.

Tithing teaches us that 90% of our income with the blessing of God goes further than 100% without it. When God blesses us, our 90% goes further. And it's not just a financial blessing, but God's blessing in every area. The tithe teaches us to trust God and break the power of **self-reliance**. It builds our faith. God is not only testing us, but He lets us *test Him back*. Scripture says in **Malachi 3:10b**, ***"...And try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."*** God says, "Put Me to the test!"

- Why do you think God asks us to put Him to the test when it comes to tithing?

God Himself said that when we tithe, He steps into our financial world and rebukes the devourer! He says in **Malachi 3:11**: ***"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground..."***

- Has the enemy tried to steal from you before? Have you personally experienced God's rebuke of the devourer? Share your story.

3. Tithing teaches us to put God first.

The Living Bible (LB) says this about the tithe in **Deuteronomy 14:23c**: ***...The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.*** There's not a more tangible and practical way in our lives where we make a conscious choice to put God first than through the tithe. Tithing keeps money out of our hearts and in our hands. It keeps it off the throne of our lives.

- Why is tithing not a matter of finances but instead, a matter of obedience to God?
- If you tithe, share how you've seen God's provision in your life. If you do not tithe, share what may be holding you back.

LIFE CHALLENGE

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.*** We give to Him first! It requires faith to give first. If you give last, it doesn't require faith. We give first because that is exactly how God gave to us. **Romans 5:8** says: ***But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*** When did God give? He gave *before* we believed. He gave first believing that we would see His gift, ***"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,"*** that when we saw that, our only reasonable response would be to give Him our whole lives. God gave first. Won't you give your whole life back?

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER