



## Who's First? | Week 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE

### OVERVIEW

In this message of *Made for More*, we explored the biblical principles of giving the first and best to God, focusing on the firstborn, firstfruits, and the tithe, as acts of faith and putting God first in our lives.

### DISCUSSION

**First: To be head of, the original, to be before all, in preference to something else, the beginning, the foremost.**

Solomon teaches in **Proverbs 3:9-10**, ***“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.”*** This principle encourages giving God the first and best of what we have. Jesus affirms this in **Matthew 6:33**: ***“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”*** God desires to be first in all areas of life, making Him our top priority.

- What challenges might prevent us from making God our first priority, and how can we overcome them?

### Three Firsts:

#### 1. The firstborn is God's.

God declares in **Exodus 13:12-13**, ***“You shall set apart to the Lord all that open the womb... the males shall be the Lord's.”*** The firstborn of clean animals was to be sacrificed to God, and if the firstborn was an unclean animal, a clean one had to be sacrificed in its place to redeem it. This points to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, the "spotless Lamb of God," who redeemed us while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8). God gave His first and best—Jesus—unconditionally and in faith, just as we are called to give the first tenth of our income to God, trusting Him to bless the rest.

- How does the idea of Jesus being God's "firstborn" change or deepen your understanding of His sacrifice for us?
- Why do you think God emphasizes giving the firstborn or the first tenth instead of what remains? How does this challenge our typical approach to generosity?

## 2. The firstfruits are God's.

The principle of firstfruits emphasizes giving God the first and best of what we receive. **Exodus 23:19** commands, ***“The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the House of the Lord your God,”*** signifying that our tithe belongs to the local church, or the “house of the Lord.” **Malachi 3:10** further clarifies this by instructing, ***“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,”*** promising blessings for those who obey.

In **Genesis 4:3-5**, God accepted Abel's offering of the firstborn from his flock but rejected Cain's offering given “in the process of time,” emphasizing that God cannot accept second place. **Deuteronomy 14:23** says, ***“The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives,”*** showing that it's not just about money but about the condition of our hearts. Ultimately, God wants us to demonstrate our trust in Him by prioritizing Him with our first and best.

- Why is it significant that God rejected Cain's offering but accepted Abel's, and what does this tell us about the condition of our hearts in giving?
- How can the principle of putting God first apply to areas beyond finances, like our time, relationships, or decisions?

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

The principle of tithing emphasizes giving God the first ten percent of our income as an expression of trust and recognition of His lordship. **Leviticus 27:30** declares, “And all the tithe of the land... is the LORD's. It is holy to the LORD,” establishing that the first ten percent of our increase belongs to God. Tithing is a reminder that God owns everything and tests our hearts each time we receive income. The tithe is given to the local church, which is described as the “storehouse,” to reflect God's priority in our lives. Tithing combats materialism, keeps God at the forefront of our priorities, and expresses gratitude to Him for all He has done.

- How does the practice of tithing demonstrate trust in God's provision and ownership over all that we have?
- **Leviticus 27:30** describes the tithe as “holy to the LORD.” What does it mean for something to be “holy,” and how should this shape our attitude toward tithing?
- Share a time when you were blessed as a result of tithing and/or giving.

## LIFE CHALLENGE

This week, challenge yourself to put God first by giving Him your best in all areas of life—your time, finances, and decisions. Take a step of faith by tithing, trusting that God will honor your obedience and provide for all your needs.