

90 DAYS

90 DAY TITHE CHALLENGE

Pastor Dave Patterson

April 14, 2019

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.

Use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

Malachi 3:10b (NLT)

"I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!"

2 Corinthians 9:8

And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others

Luke 19:11-17

The crowd was listening to everything Jesus said. And because he was nearing Jerusalem, he told them a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God would begin right away. He said, "A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, 'Invest this for me while I am gone.' But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We do not want him to be our king.'

¹⁵ "After he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what their profits were. The first servant reported, 'Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!'

"'Well done!' the king exclaimed. 'You are a good servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.'

PERSEPECTIVES FOR STEWARDSHIP

1. It all belongs to God

- Psalm 24:1

*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.
The world and all its people **belong to him.***

- Psalm 50:10-12 (NLT)

*For all the animals of the forest **are mine**,
and I own the cattle on a thousand hills.
I know every bird on the mountains,
and all the animals of the field **are mine.**
If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for **all the world is mine and everything in it.***

2. The first of all I receive belongs to God

- Exodus 13:2 (NLT)

*"Dedicate to me every firstborn among the Israelites. The first offspring to be born, of both humans and animals, **belongs to me.**"*

- Exodus 23:19 (NLT)

*“As you harvest your crops, **bring the very best of the first harvest** to the house of the LORD your God.*

- Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV)

*Honor the LORD with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;
then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine.*

- 1 Corinthians 16:2 (NLT)

*On the **first day of each week**, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.*

- Genesis 4:3-4

*In the course of time Cain **brought some of the fruits** of the soil as an offering to the LORD. Abel also brought a gift—**the best portions of the firstborn** lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift.*

Cane & Abel	4000 BC
Abraham	2000 BC
Moses (The Law)	1500 BC
David	1000 BC
Jesus	0 BC / AD

3. The tithe is God's invitation to prove his faithfulness!

- Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test** (*bachan*) **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.*

<p>Test / <i>bachan</i> = to prove to be true, to put to the test, to examine and test to be true or false, to put on trial in order to prove as fact or fiction</p>

⇒ Give First

- ⇒ **Save something**
- ⇒ **Live on the rest**

- Proverbs 13:11 (NIV)

*Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money **little by little makes it grow.***

- 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion.”

TALK IT THROUGH

The “take home” message for this week is: *Life is a stewardship, not an ownership.*

1. Open with the key verse, Malachi 3:10. Why does God say to test him in the area of giving? Are there one or two people within the group who have a personal story to share of when they did put God to the test in this, and the outcome?
2. Read Luke 19:11-17. In parables, we always ask the questions: *Who represents Jesus in this story, and who represents me?* As a group, determine those answers, and then discuss the central message of the story. What is God saying to us?
3. Pastor Dave encouraged us to get this clear in our minds: *God is the owner and I am the manager.* How are you managing the earthly resources God has entrusted to you? How does knowing that one day soon we will see Jesus face-to-face affect the way you live your life?
4. Read together Ps. 24:1 and Ps. 50:10-12. How does it change our perspective, and the output of our lives, knowing “it all” belongs to God?
5. What are some things that might cause us to withdraw from faithful stewardship and generosity?
6. Read Gen. 4:3-4. What was the difference between Cain and Abel’s gift? How did God view each gift? How does that translate to us today?
7. Review Pastor Dave’s three steps toward faithful stewardship:
 - Give First
 - Save Something
 - Live on the Rest.

Which of these areas is your strength? In which of the three is God inviting you to grow?
Spend some time as a group praying for one another and the stewardship of your resources.