



UN-COMPLICATING MONEY

Big Idea

This week, Pastor Chris confronted one of the top sources of stress in our lives and marriages: money. A recent survey showed 22% of divorces are caused by “money issues.” Money is spiritual, and the enemy’s plan is to take away the freedom God wants for us in our finances. We often believe the lie that having more money will make us more secure, or that the things we own define who we are, or that our stuff belongs to us. This way of thinking will lead to confusion and complications in our relationships. Thankfully, God’s Word reveals an un-complicated approach to money.

The most important financial principle in the Bible is tithing. Leviticus 27:30 (TLB) says, “A tenth of all you produce...is the Lord’s, and it is holy.” This is not just an Old Testament law; tithing is a way we communicate that God is first in our lives. Tithing isn’t based on whether or not we can afford it. It’s a test of our faith. When we trust God with the first, He always blesses the rest. Our obedience in tithing also allows the church to do the work of the Lord. When God’s storehouse is full, our needs and the needs of others can be met through the church. Putting God first is a principle that reaches far beyond tithing, and it has the power to change our lives completely. Reverend Billy Graham said it this way: “If a person gets their attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area of their life.”

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever found yourself believing the enemy’s lies about money? How did this message challenge your perspective?
- In what ways have you seen blessing in your life as you’ve been obedient to tithe? If you are new to tithing, share a time that God provided for you as you stepped out in faith.
- Aside from money, what is one way that you can start giving God your “first” this week (e.g. first of your day, week, year)?

Prayer Focus

God, thank You for showing us in your Word how we can experience peace and blessing in our finances. We confess that we have often gone our own way with our money and recognize that Your way is better. Today, we commit to putting You first in every area of our lives. We trust that as we give You our first, You will bless the rest.

Next Steps

If you are new to tithing, commit to giving God the first 10% of your income in the coming weeks and months. Take note of how you see God’s blessing and faithfulness as a result. If you already tithe, identify a new area in which you can give God your “first,” and commit to it!

Leader Tip

Money can be a challenging topic for some group members. Be sensitive to the financial situations represented in your group. Encourage each person to take one step (even if it is small) this week.