



## **Sermon Discussion Questions**

Sunday, October 30, 2011

Closing Loopholes

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### **Note to Group Leaders:**

Leaders, we have put more questions here than you may be able to use. The purpose of this is that certain questions will work for certain groups and so some of these questions will not be good ones for your group. So, pick and choose what works best for your group

### **Introduce it:**

As the leader of the group reads each word, write down the word and then briefly jot down if this week you felt this way at any time around money. Jot down the event and be ready to share with the group a couple of them.

Leader, read these words giving time for the group to jot down an answer:

Delight	Dissatisfaction	Envy	Greed
Anxiety	Excitement	Anger	Guilt Contentment

After going through each word, have each person share about 1 or 2 words they felt strongest this week.

### **Revisit it: learn the passage preached on.**

Read the Passage Malachi 3:6-12

What are all the things we learn about God in this passage?

What are all the things we learn about the Israelites in this passage?

Is there anything in this passage that is surprising to learn about God? Anything you didn't know already?

Why do you believe the people of Israel would steal from God? Why would they not bring in the whole tithe? If this is hard to answer, what are reasons we don't bring the whole tithe to God? What keeps us from doing this?

When we don't bring the whole tithe, we are holding back because we believe we can't afford to give all of that to God. We have to use that portion to take care of something else. What are the things we believe we need to spend this money on that God can't provide for us?

It was said in the sermon that there is a huge difference between having money and having generosity. How much money would you say you have compared to others? How much generosity would you say you have? Which of these do you wish you had more of and why?

In what ways do you believe that more money will give you more freedom in Christ? In what ways will more generosity give you more freedom in Christ?

What are we stealing from God if we just tithe to keep God happy with us? In other words, what are we stealing from God if we tithe just to keep the rule, "you should tithe"?

Relook at it: see other places in the Bible that speak to sermon.

Read the following verses:

Genesis 1:29-30; Gen 12:2-3; Exodus 32:9-12; Romans 5:15; Ephesians 3:20; 1 John 3:1

What do you learn here about the generosity of God? In what ways has he "not changed" over all time?

If God is this generous to us, how does this help to trust him with your future finances?

**Use it: don't just learn the passage but use it.**

A few simple ways to use this passage this week:

- 1) If you have never tithed, do it this week. Trust God in this area for the first time. Don't wait. Then make a journal of all the ways you see God taking care of your fiancés over the next few weeks. Pay attention to your heart and the emotions going on toward money.
- 2) Post the following on your mirror in your bathroom and over the next weeks read them daily. Write in your journal what God reminds you of as the day goes on:

Every time I tithe, I remind myself that God is on the throne. Not me. Not money.

Every time I tithe, I reinforce that all I have is from him.

Every time I tithe, I make a declaration: "I will trust you, God" - even when trusting doesn't feel easy or natural.

**Remember it: memorize a verse that helps you to remember and use it.**

Write this verse on top of the piece of paper you are to post on your mirror from number 2 in the Use It area above.

Memorize Malachi 3:12, "**All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land,**" says the Lord of hosts.

Bring your kids to see it on your mirror and read each one to them and teach these points to them. Invite them to memorize the verse with you.