

GROUP GUIDE

NEWSPRING CHURCH

THE LIFE OF JOB

3 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

WEEK 3



BIG IDEA

The story of Job is not just a story of great suffering—it’s a story of hope. The Bible tells us that Job was blessed even more in the second half of his life than he was in the first.

God blessed Job because He knew He could trust Job. If we show ourselves to be trustworthy with what God has financially given us, then He will trust us with more.

GET STARTED

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

How often, on a given day, do you think about money? Why do you think about it as much or as little as you do?

Do you think you should think about money more, less, or no differently than you currently do? Why?

DISCUSS

The subject of money can be a tense one because all of us have some kind of relationship with it. The question isn’t whether you relate to money or not; it’s how you relate to money. One of the things we see from Job’s blessed life is that when you prove yourself to be faithful, God will bless you with even more. It happened to Job, and it can happen to you if you make three financial commitments that will change your life.

> WATCH THE CLIP FROM PERRY’S SERMON.

Why do you think the Bible tells us all the material possessions Job had during the first part of his life and then also tells us everything he had in the second part of his life?

Job had a big view of God. Why is having a big view of God a key to being blessed by God?

Why is it important to know that everything we own is on loan from God? How does seeing that make you more generous?

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God knew He could trust Job because Job had proven himself to be faithful. In the message, Perry went on to share three financial decisions that God will honor and will change the trajectory of your financial life.

Decision number 1 is this: I finally put God first in my finances through tithing. What is your attitude right now toward tithing?

Why do you think tithing is so important to God?

What does tithing say about the way we view God? What does it say about the condition of our hearts?

> READ MALACHI 3:6-11.

How does this verse show us that we can't outgive God?

In the days of Malachi, the people were cursed because they weren't giving their first and best to God. The way the curse is broken is through tithing. When we do, we will find that God is much more generous with us than we are with Him.

Decision number 2 is this: I made a commitment to get out of debt. What does our struggle with debt say about our hearts?``

> READ PROVERBS 22:7; 21:5; AND 21:20.

In your own words, what do these verses teach us about debt?

Debt is a chain that weighs us down. Instead of being able to use our money for the purposes of God and His kingdom, we are paying someone back for things we thought we needed. Deciding to get out of debt leads us to financial decision number 3.

Decision number 3 is: I choose generosity over greed. Why are people who follow Jesus continually growing more generous and not more greedy?

> READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19.

What do these verses teach us about the reason we have money and what to do with it?

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It's not a sin to have money; it's a sin to be greedy. God gives us these resources on loan so that we can give back to Him and do His work in the world. When we do, He will bless us with even more.

NEXT STEPS

Help your group identify what next steps we need to take together.

Perry challenged us with three financial commitments as he closed his sermon. First off, commit to tithe for the rest of your life. What is holding you back from making this commitment?

The second commitment was to get out of debt. What is your next step to get out of debt? Do you need to change your lifestyle? Put together a budget? Take a look at the financial resources page at newspring.cc.

The third commitment is to be generous. What is one way you can give to the work God is doing through the local church, above and beyond your tithe?

PRAY

Close in prayer and thank God that He is the best Giver. Ask Him to help you to manage what you've been given well.

LEADER TIPS

Midway through this week, send a follow-up email to your group with some or all of the following:

- Questions to consider as they continue to reflect on what they learned this week:
 - **Have you taken a look at the financial resources page at newspring.cc yet?**
 - **When was the last time you evaluated your budget to see what you could be freed up to give?**
- A note of encouragement, following up on any specific prayer requests mentioned during your group gathering.
- The challenge to memorize Malachi 3:11.