



Who's on First?

Focus A life of blessing begins with a clear understanding and acceptance of the principle of the firstborn, firstfruits and tithing. Without that understanding, it's impossible to move on to the greater adventures God has in store for those who will put Him first.

Open What is the first thing people notice about you?

Read There are more than 500 verses in the Bible concerning prayer and nearly 500 verses concerning faith, but there are more than 2,000 verses on the subject of money and possessions. Clearly, from the Bible's standpoint, we need to understand money and how to handle it.

How you handle money reveals volumes about your priorities, loyalties and affections. In fact, it directly dictates many of the blessings you will (or will not) experience in life.

The principles of tithing, the firstborn and firstfruits are biblical and eternal. Aligning your life and actions with them will bring God's blessing; however, those principles must be put into practice before we see the blessing of God. That's what tithing really is—giving our *first* to God. It's saying, "God, I'm going to give to You first and trust You to redeem the rest."

- Talk**
1. Read Exodus 13:12–13. How were the unclean (donkeys) redeemed?
 2. This passage gives us a picture of God's tithe. Jesus, the Lamb, is God's firstborn Son, and He was sacrificed to redeem the unclean. How does

this change your perspective of the “sacrifice” you make from your paycheck?

3. Read Genesis 4:3–5. Why did God accept Abel’s offering but not Cain’s?
4. Is it possible to give 10% and not be tithing? Why does “the process of time” matter?
5. Throughout the Bible, the tithe is always “brought” and never “given.” How does this reflect the principle of stewardship?

Live

1. Do your bank statements show you fear the mortgage company or your electricity provider more than you fear the Lord? If so, write down a schedule of bill paying so the first portion of your income (the redemptive portion) is brought to the Lord before anything else is paid.
2. Every time you get a paycheck, you have the opportunity to worship someone with the firstfruits of your increase. If you’ve been worshipping someone other than God, spend time with the Lord and repent. Make a commitment to the Lord that you’ll worship Him alone with all He’s given you.

Pray

Thank God for His tithe. Praise Him for giving Jesus in faith when we were still sinners. Let Him know how grateful you are for the personal relationship His sacrifice created.

If you don’t have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, ask your group leader to explain how God’s ultimate sacrifice can redeem you.