



## What Test?

**Focus** God gives us stewardship responsibility over our lives. Though it all belongs to Him, He richly gives us all things to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17). When we tithe, we demonstrate faithful stewardship by showing God that we realize we are stewards, not owners.

**Open** What is the last test you remember taking?

**Read** Tithing is a principle that runs throughout the Word of God. It represents the ultimate “heart test” for the believer. It’s also the only area in the Bible that invites you to test God (Malachi 3:10).

Hebrews 7:8 says, “Here mortal men receive tithes, but there He receives them, of whom it is witnessed that He lives.” When you write your tithe check, you may think you’re giving it to your local church, but in a very real, spiritual sense, true tithers have their offerings received by the Lord Jesus Himself. What an incredible privilege! What a holy thing! And what a loss for those who never take the step of faith and tithe.

Tithing is an extraordinary biblical promise for blessing, protection and abundance for those with the faith to trust Him.

- Talk**
1. Read Malachi 3:6–12. Share your general thoughts about this passage.
  2. God says anyone who does not tithe is robbing Him. Explain why. What does He say happens to those who rob Him?

3. Most people who don't tithe say they cannot afford to. Why do you think that is the case?
4. What promise does the Lord give to those who do tithe? How do you know this principle still applies to Christians today? (*see verse 6*)
5. Tithing is the only area in which God invites us to test Him. What do you think the result of that test will be?
6. Tithing not only blesses God's people, it also brings provision into God's house. What do you think the Church could accomplish if every believer tithed?

**Live**

1. God is saying, "Test Me." If you're not already tithing, begin to honor the Lord diligently with your firstfruits and see what happens. Keep record of your tithe and the blessings that follow.
2. In Genesis 28, God speaks to Jacob in a dream and promises to bless him. The next morning, Jacob worships God and vows to return a tenth of his blessings back to God. Make a list of all the Lord has blessed you with and spend time worshipping Him for those provisions. Consider whether you have returned a tenth back to God. If not, what steps will you take to give God your firstfruits?

**Pray**

Spend some time waiting on the Lord to reveal what He wants to teach you. Thank Him for the test of tithing and the work it does in your heart. Praise Him for His faithful promise to bless those who bless Him.