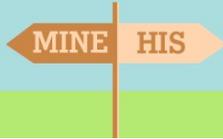


THE GIVEN LIFE



Digging Deeper

A Given Life Gives

Week of February 26, 2017

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Romans 8:9; Malachi 3:16-14

Beyond the broken of life, the only hope we have is the promise of God. We have that hope because a life was given to us—the life of Jesus given in exchange for ours. We have to decide if we are willing to give our lives to him. It's not about having a great life walking around on broken glass—Life is about God's promise of redemption through Jesus, and about us giving our lives back to him. One way we must give back to him is in the giving of our tithe. When we've given our heart and soul to God, trusting and giving the tenth is easy. However, we will always find reasons to disbelieve God's promise. In a very real way every day you choose to either have the blessing of God or the cursing of God working for you. The progress of our church is being hindered by a lack of trust. When will you trust? When will you live a given life instead of a kept life?

Pray

God, you say to trust you—even to test you on the one principal of bringing our whole tithe to you. You promise to then open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there wouldn't be room to store it. Father, let me have that much trust—to believe when I give you 10% of what you've already given me, that you will bless. This is your promise.

Getting Started

- What does tithing mean to you?
- Share a time when you have trusted God, even when it seemed futile or impossible to do so. What happened?

Digging Deeper

1. Read Romans 8:9 (in The Message if you can). What does this verse mean to you? Does it change how you think about giving?
2. Beyond the broken, the promise of God is all we have. What is that promise? (Hint: look at Romans 5:12, Psalm 145:12, Joshua 23:14 and 2 Peter 1:4). What are these verses telling you?
3. God commands from us a 10th of our income (Malachi 3:6-14)—or otherwise called first fruits. What are our first fruits? Do our first fruits look different compared to Bible times? How?
4. How does our lack of trust hinder the work of the church?
5. Discuss ways you have found to disbelieve or reject God's promise. Why is this common for us to do?
6. How can we increase our trust and belief in God's promise?
7. Discuss this statement: *In a very real way, we each choose whether to have God's blessing work for us, or his cursing to work against us (Micah 3:9).* Is this true for you? What do you need to change to live fully in the promise of God.

Living Jesus

If you haven't given your life to Jesus, this is the first thing you need to do to live in God's promise. God gave his Son so you can have a redeemed life; all you need to do is to accept it from him. Consider the promise of a life beyond broken. If your life is given, then it's time to take it a step further and trust in the promise of the tithe. Test God in this and see if he will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there is not enough room for it. To start tithing at Severn Run visit severnrun.com/give.