



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 I Timothy 6:7-9; 17-19

“Oh you of little faith” is a phrase used by Jesus. Faith is a sign of obedience, confidence and trust. Our God is the God of extravagant love. He gave us His all in giving us Jesus. We need to just believe.

We are often distracted by “the Joneses,” the infamous neighbors who have it all - all the things, all the parties, all the notoriety. We buy stuff and build more debt, ultimately giving God the crumbs from the banquet He has prepared for us.

Our call to action is the giving our our time, our talents, and our tithe. We need to get off our dime giving God our first fruits now, not when we “hit it big.” It will bring joy but maybe not initially. Eventually it gets easier until it becomes difficult not to give!

Pray

Dear Jesus, we want to believe, we want to trust. Help us want give back to you. Move our hearts to desire to give even when it seems difficult and we don't want to do it. Guide us to trust You and Your love for us at all times. Your plans are good and Your love is unfailing. For this we thank You. Amen.

Getting Started

- In what ways have “the Joneses” influenced your life and the lives of those around you?
- Tell about a time you thought you made a good purchase, and it turned out to be a debacle or a waste of money.

Digging Deeper

1. Discuss the following statement, “The issue is not what you are buying, it’s what you are spending on God.”
2. Read Malachi 3:9-10 and Act 4:32. If tithing was 10% for the Jewish people and the church in Acts shared everything, what does that mean for us today?
3. When it comes to tithing, in what way have you seen the affects of spiritual warfare? Why is Satan so invested in keeping people from extravagant giving?
4. In what ways have you tried to explain to God, “You just don’t understand _____.” (Fill in the blank.)
5. If God deserves our time, talents, and tithe, why do we make time for Him, use our talents for Him, and still find it so hard to tithe?
6. Define the phrase, “get off the dime.” What are you going to do to “get off your dime” in respect to tithing?

Living Jesus

One penny doesn't seem like much, one penny out of ten cents still doesn't seem like much at all. Keep upping the numbers until you hit your income. How does it feel now? Suddenly it seems like so much. Now look at 90% that remains. It is so much more. This is God, He leaves us so much more. Are you willing to return to God one penny of every dime? Pray about it, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you, and don't let Satan confuse you! What you are going to commit to changing to make tithing happen?

Your Story

Consider the Biblical perspective on tithing and think of when you have been either chosen to or not to tithe. What effect did your choice have on your life and on your relationship with God?

Share your personal story with us at severnrun.com/stories.