

HONEYDEW

Malachi 3:6-12, Leviticus 27:30, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

*These questions are provided to lead the group in **applying** the teaching from Sunday. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in being a doer of God's Word. Challenge each other and be vulnerable as God works IN and THROUGH you together.*

1. Who has God placed on your heart to invite to The Table (1-Year Rally)? Have you had any table meetings yet (Church? Community? Cultures?)? If so, how did it go?
2. Why do you think some people get uptight when churches talk about giving? Why do you think some people actually like it when churches talk about giving? What do you think is the reason for this difference?
3. Discuss these two biblical principles: "God owns everything" and "God is the source of everything we have." Why is it difficult to believe this? In what ways can affirming this affect our giving?
4. Read Malachi 3:6-8. Malachi was written when the people of God were returning from exile. Many had rebelled against God. Malachi is calling them to return to God. That is the context of this passage. How is God's mercy and his desire for a relationship with us the foundation of all commitment? How does this influence your view of giving?
5. What is a tithe? What is an offering? Are they the same or different? To whom does the tithe belong? (see Leviticus 27:30). Is 10% required today? Do you think we should give less today under grace than people were required to give under law? Explain.
6. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. What do these verses say about how much we are to give, in what attitude we should give, and what happens when we give? In what ways does giving result in blessings? Is it limited to financial blessings? Explain.
7. Read Malachi 3:9-12. Why does God equate not giving to robbing him? Why would withholding the tithe result in Israel being cursed? Is the "curse" a discipline or a natural consequence? Explain. How does refusing to give not only rob God, but also rob us?
8. Read Genesis 2:16-17 and 3:5-6. Talk about the Honeydew object lesson from the sermon. What are the parallels in the story of Adam and Eve overreaching and taking what was not theirs to take with the account of robbing God in Malachi? What are some ways we "overreach" and "rob" God on a regular basis?
9. Discuss: "When we consume what belongs to God, we discard the seeds of blessings for our lives." How does stinginess lead to stagnation?
10. Will you cling or will you bring? When it comes to your finances, how can you take your next step in honoring God with your giving?
11. How can this group pray for you and our church this week? Pray for people to invite to your Church Table, Community Table, and Cultural Table.