



FEBRUARY 10/11

RESOURCES

JOHN FULLER, SENIOR PASTOR

INTRODUCTION

Last week, in our three-week series, "Close the Gap," Pastor Chip focused on relationships and our need to be involved in relationships with fellow believers. This week, Pastor John will conclude the series by discussing our resources, specifically that tithing is the antidote to the money mess.

DISCUSSION

1. Read Malachi 3:6-8. Tithing is the flashing indicator of the health of our heart. Is our allegiance in the wrong place when it comes to money in our lives? What area or areas is God speaking to you about money?
2. Read Malachi 3:9-10. Tithing is a test of trust. God tests our trust as we test His faithfulness. Are we willing to trust God with our money? Discuss a time when you trusted God with your money. How was he faithful in your life?
3. Read Malachi 3:10-12. Tithing was never meant to be a burden, but always a blessing. When we order our lives around Him and put money in its place, we can be at peace and be blessed. Share a time when tithing lead to a blessing in your life?

THINK ABOUT IT

Tithing is a huge deal because it's a heart deal. God has no greater competition for what we're going to trust in our life. It's why it makes us feel uncomfortable in church. It gets to the heart of what we're trusting. In fact, of the 38 parables Jesus spoke, 16 of them were about money. He even said, you can't serve God and money. In fact, nothing competes for our heart more than money.

DO SOMETHING

1. Tithing is giving back to God what belongs to God. Every time we earn income, we are to give Him the first 10 percent. If you are not currently giving 10 percent of your income, don't be afraid to begin doing this. Obey God and step out in trust. He blesses.
2. As you begin to close the gap between where you are and where you want to be, have a purpose bigger than yourself, serve other sacrificially and prioritize healthy discipleship relationships. By doing these things, God will change and use you for His mission of bringing others and helping them grow in Christ.
3. If you are not in a small group, prayerfully consider signing up for an I AM Group. Sign up at the Connection Desk or online at prairielakeschurch.org/groups.