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Don't Rob God

Focus When we don't give tithes and offerings, we rob God of an opportunity to bless us.

Fun What are your favorite springtime activities? What does spring symbolize to you or make you think about?

Review Key Scripture: Malachi 3:8–12

- **How do we rob God?**

Malachi 3:8–12 talks about the ways we can rob God. God does not need our money, so we are not robbing God of money when we don't give tithes and offerings. What we are actually doing is robbing God of an opportunity to bless us.

- **God blesses us when we tithe.**

Leviticus 27:30 says that all the tithes of the land belong to God, and we are to bring them to the storehouse—the local church. In Joshua 6 and 7, the Israelites took Jericho, the first city in their Promised Land; however, God did not bless their next battle and they lost because Achan withheld part of the tithe.

- **God blesses us when we give offerings and sacrificial offerings.**

Offerings are what we give above and beyond our tithe. Most kings offered one bull when they became king, but Solomon offered one thousand bulls. The woman who anointed Jesus' feet with perfume used a bottle that cost one year's wages. The greatest sacrificial offering was when God offered His own son, Jesus. All of these offerings resulted in tremendous blessing being poured out.

Group Dynamics Idea Easter is coming soon, and it is the one time of year people who don't normally attend church are willing to come with you. Whether you use the cards Gateway distributed, or whether you just invite coworkers and neighbors by word of mouth, encourage your group to be very intentional about inviting people to church.

- Discuss**
1. In the past, what has been your perspective on tithes and offerings? Is it something you grew up knowing about, or has it been a journey of discovery for you?
 2. More people struggle with tithing more than any other principle in Scripture. Why do you think this is so?
 3. Read Deuteronomy 26:1–2, 13–15. According to these verses, what is the tithe and who or what do we give it to?
 4. Have you experienced God's blessing in your life by stepping out in faith to tithe or give an offering? If so, share with the group.
 5. What is the difference between an offering and a sacrificial offering? How does each of them require faith?
 6. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6–7. Have you ever given grudgingly? Have you ever given joyfully? Why do you think God is concerned with our hearts when we give, rather than how much we give?

- Take Home**
- As we conclude, remember the following:
- We can rob God of being able to bless us.
 - When we tithe, God blesses us.
 - When we give offerings, God blesses us.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the most sacrificial offering of all—Your son, Jesus. Thank You for giving us the gift of salvation. Thank You for blessing us when we give tithes and offerings to You! Help us to always be cheerful givers. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Tithing and giving can be a sensitive topic for people because there are often heart issues they are wrestling with. Be aware of the tone of the group, and try to encourage people who seem to be struggling with this issue to really dig into Scriptures and to spend time asking God to give them a personal revelation.