



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *First Things First*

Scripture: *Haggai, Malachi 3:8*

Date: November 16-17, 2019

Message: *Honor*

—[LET'S START]—

Most of us have stories about how someone's generosity made an impact in our life. How has the generosity of others made an impact on your life?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work. Pray for the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.

2. In this week's message, Pastor Dale preached about honor God with our finances. What were some of the things about Pastor Dale's message that caused you to think differently this week?

3. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10.

What do you suppose that Paul meant in verse 6? Would it have been easy or difficult for Paul to be content?

How do verses 7-8 make you feel? How could these verses be applied correctly in your life? How could these verses be taken out of context?

How easy is it to fall into temptation in our desire for more wealth (vs. 9)?

Take a closer look at verse 10. How can the love of money produce evil in our lives? How can we overcome a love of money?

4. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

How are these verses and antidote to the love of money? What types of good do you hope that the money that God has entrusted you with will do in this world?

—[LET'S ACT]—

Talking about money can be a hard subject. All throughout Scripture we see that God's people are called to honor Him with their resources. What is one way that our LifeGroup could honor God with our resources this holiday season? Is there a special project that we could adopt together? Take some time to pray and ask God to show you how you can be a generous group.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- In Haggai we see that seventeen years after returning to Jerusalem from their captivity in Babylon, some of the Jews became preoccupied with their own business instead of God's.
- Their failure to prioritize what mattered to God was causing them to experience hardship. Instead of being for them, God was now working against them.
- In the Old Testament God promised that if the Israelites put him first he would bless them and if they didn't he would work against them.
- In the New Testament it's different. We're in a different relationship with God now, one no longer based on the law but upon grace and God's extreme generosity in giving up His Son Jesus, who in turn gave his life for us. He died our death so we could live his life.
- God asks that we be generous: **First** to support his work in the world and **secondly** for our own good!
- Generously investing in God's will helps us avoid falling into the trap of materialism, which can lead to financial or spiritual ruin and sometimes both!
- So many of us treat God as an afterthought. We think about God last and our stuff first. We make our lives so much harder by putting ourselves ahead of God.
- Jesus' method is not to bully or harass the people. He does not threaten or pick a fight.
- The book of Proverbs is full of practical advice about money like:
 - Keeping good records of what God has given you. Proverbs 27:23
 - Plan you spending. Proverbs 21:5
 - Save for the future. Proverbs 13:11 (Average Japanese man saves 28%, EU 18% American 5%)
 - Learn to be content with what you have.
 - Give back generously to God.
- When we honor God and put Him first, He blesses us! Not always financially. But there are many other ways God blesses us.

—[NOTES]—
