

100%

Setting Apart All that We Have for God

WEEK 1

WARM-UP

- Recall a time when you bought a present for a loved one with money that you worked hard for. How did they react?
- What did you do with the first salary you earned or with the first allowance you received?
- How do you manage your time, finances, or resources? Tell us more about it.

WORD *⁹Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.*

PROVERBS 3:9-10

(Read also **GENESIS 1**, **NUMBERS 15:20-21**, and **ROMANS 11:16**.)

In a world full of material things, it can be easy to forget that everything belongs to God. David writes in one of his psalms that *the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein* (Psalm 24:1). Our possessions, resources, and even our lives are not really ours but God's. All things were created *through him and for him* (Colossians 1:16). As His stewards, we are to give back to God, in gratitude, what He has first given us. Today, we will look at how we can honor God by setting apart all that we have for Him, including our wealth and finances.

1 | We are to set apart our first fruits to honor God.

⁹Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. PROVERBS 3:9-10

In biblical times, the Israelites offered their first harvest of crops to express their reverence to God and to acknowledge that He was the source of everything they had. Giving our first fruits means unconditionally setting apart the first and the best of what we have to honor God. It means trusting Him by placing all that we have in His hands. This is how God’s people understood what giving the first fruits does—it sets apart everything that we own and allows God’s grace and spiritual blessings to abound in us (Romans 11:16). How has putting God first in your finances made an impact in your life? How has it changed the way you view wealth?

2 | We are to set apart all our wealth to honor God.

⁹Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. PROVERBS 3:9-10

Since God is the owner of all that we are and all that we have, we are to honor Him with everything He has blessed us with—not just with our first fruits or tithes. We are called to faithfully steward even the 90% that we have been privileged to manage. In fact, the Bible is filled with ways on how we are to steward everything we have been given. Whether we are in plenty or in want, we are called to practice generosity and handle our finances wisely. It is when we honor God with both the first fruits and with all the rest of our possessions that we see an overflow of God’s provision—allowing us to honor Him more. In your life, how have you honored God, not just with the 10%, but with everything that you have?

APPLICATION

- How will the understanding that God owns everything change the way you look at money and the material possessions you have now? How will it help you trust God more?
- Give some thought to how much God has blessed you. How can you honor Him with all the things that He has placed in your hands?
- How can you put God first and give your best to Him faithfully, whatever the circumstance? How can you encourage others to do the same this week?

