

# LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK: JANUARY 17-23, 2026

## SERIES INFO

### How to Tame a Monster

Money isn't evil... but it is **powerful**. It shapes our decisions, fuels our stress, and quietly competes for control of our hearts. Most of us don't notice when our money stops serving us—and starts leading us. In this four-week series, we'll expose the money monster, uncover what feeds it, put real boundaries around it, and reclaim the freedom God intends for our lives. Because money makes a terrible master... and it's time to teach it who's boss.

## PERSONAL FUN FACTS

-What's the most generous thing that someone has ever done for you? (big or small)

-What's one thing you "own" that feels more like "mine" than God's?

## TAKEAWAYS

What were the greatest "takeaways" you had from the message this week about how to tame a monster?

## DISCUSSION

### 1. Living with Open Hands in a Closed Fist World

**Scripture: Psalm 24:1; Genesis 2:15**

It is very easy to think, "I earned it, it is mine, and I get to decide what to do with it." Another way to think is, "God owns it, I manage it, and He directs all of it." Living a life of stewardship is more about how you see everything you have, over how much you give. In this part of our lesson, we are discussing the difference between being a "steward," over being an "owner." Psalm 24:1 is basically saying, "God owns creation, its contents and inhabitants." He is the true Owner of all things, and we are the managers under His supervision and guidance.

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## DISCUSSION CONTINUED

- 1) Why does the psalmist add the words, "all who live in it (the world)" instead of stopping with material things?
  
  
  
- 2) What worldview does Psalm 24:1 directly oppose? How would a biblical view of stewardship vs. ownership reshape society today?
  
  
  
- 3) What does it mean to be a steward or a manager over all of God's creation? In other words, how does this change your personal sense of identity in how God created you?

## 2. What is Tithing ... really?

**Scripture: Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 6:19-21**

We see that tithing was a part of the Law that required the people of Israel to give ten percent of their agricultural products to God. In this manner, a tithe represented the "firstfruits" of the crop. It was given in recognition of God's provision—He received the top ten percent of their bounty. This Old Testament heritage of required tithes and offerings enriches the Christian understanding of giving. It provides a background for the greater revelation of life and service that results from faith in Christ, whereas not just a tenth of all we have, but all our treasure indicating the true condition of our heart. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Jesus does not abolish this type of generosity, rather, He deepens it. Tithing is a discipleship tool, that trains our heart to follow Christ fully and helps us to relocate our allegiance, our faith, and our trust in Him.

- 1) Why do you think God ties trust so closely to finances?
  
  
  
- 2) Why do you think God told the Israelites to test Him in this? Does tithing guarantee blessing?
  
  
  
- 3) In what ways do you believe Jesus deepens the idea of tithing from the Old Testament?"

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## APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

### Putting Stewardship Into Practice: A Practical Reset

- Have I acknowledged God as Owner, or have I treated Him like a recipient of my giving?
- Is my giving intentional (grace-filled obedience) or is it reactive (guilt-driven compliance)?
- What would a step of trust look like for me right now?

## PRAYER

God, You are the Owner of all things.  
You planted the garden and entrusted it to us.  
Teach us to give first, not fearfully.  
Free us from the illusion of control.  
Form our hearts through faithful stewardship.  
Help us to see that a heart that loves to give is an act of worship.  
May our treasure reflect our trust in You.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.