

Into the Deep- Week 6 Small Group Questions

Ask:

1. Did you ever go on a road trip as a kid? Or have you taken road trips with your kids? Share about the experiences that stand out to you the most. Why do those stand out to you?
2. What did you think about Pastor Jeff's opening thought of the kid who wouldn't trust their dad when it came to jumping into the pool but would trust their dad to drive 80 mph down the road or trust them for food and clothes? Have you ever considered how we live this way in everyday life? Have you ever considered how we treat God this way?
3. In what areas of life do you trust God without thinking much about it? What areas of life do you, like this child, struggle to trust God with?
4. Pastor Jeff focused on surrender, specifically surrendering our money to God. Why do you think so many Christians struggle with the idea of surrendering when it comes to money?

Read:

Proverbs 3:9-10, Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then He will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

“In that promise, God is not just talking about wheat and wine. He’s talking about filling your life with the blessing of God. The blessing of His provision, His protection, His presence, and His power.” Pastor Jeff Maness

Leader’s Note: Notice two keywords: "honor" and "then." Only when we honor God first do we THEN receive the blessing. This doesn't always mean the blessing will be to receive more money in return. God provides many types of blessings when we are first faithful to follow His commands. But are we willing to surrender to His commands so that we can receive all the blessings He has for us?

Ask:

1. What does it mean to honor God with the best of what we produce, or what the Bible calls “first fruits”? How can we do that in other areas besides money?

2. Have you ever hesitated to give financially or use the gifts God has given you because you felt you didn't have much to offer? Why do you think people are tempted to feel "less than" because they don't have as much as someone else?

“When it says “wealth,” it’s not just talking about being wealthy, as if this is only a principle for those who have more. When it says wealth, it’s talking about whatever amount you have. Whatever you’ve been given – whatever you produce. Whatever the amount (money or otherwise), honor the Lord with the first of that.”

Pastor Jeff Maness

Read:

Psalms 24:1, The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him.

I Chronicles 29:14, But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you gave us first!

Ask:

1. Pastor Jeff said that when we give back to God, we are not really giving Him anything. We are simply returning to God what is rightfully His. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
2. Is it easy or hard for you to see everything as God’s first rather than your own? Why or why not?
3. Let's revisit the beginning of the message with the story about the kid who would not jump into the pool: Do you think that for most people, tithing is not so much a money issue as it is a trust issue? In what ways has God proven He can be trusted in your life? Has He shown that to you in the area of money? How?

Apply:

1. What is one thing from this message that stood out to you the most?
2. If you have never tithed before, consider taking a leap of faith and start. Commit to tithing something (don't stress over the amount) as a starting point so that God can show you how great of a provider He truly is. Be sure to keep your group up to date on how your new tithing journey is going.

3. If you already tithe, consider stepping out in faith in a different area of life with which you have feared trusting God. Please share with your group what that is, and allow them to encourage you and cheer you on. Again, keep your group updated on how God works through your faithfulness.