



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

November 1/4, 2018

**Overflow: Obedience before Overflow**  
**BIG IDEA: Tithing is the normal response to receiving God's grace.**

## GROUPS VISION

We believe life transformation happens when we engage with other people, with Jesus as our focus, and take next steps together. A next step is where we Ask, Listen, and Respond to take any action that advances our journey with Jesus.

**My Story.**

An encounter with Jesus leaves a story to tell. Share yours at [valleycreek.org/MyStory](http://valleycreek.org/MyStory).

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## KEY VERSE

**"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."**

**John 15:5**

## POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Ask Jesus what He wants to say to you about how you use your money. Write down what you are sensing from God and take one step of tangible trust in the area of finances.

## MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

As followers of Jesus we were created to overflow kingdom realities into the world around us. When we receive God's grace, the normal response is gratitude and generosity. (**Colossians 2:6-7, John 15:5**) In Jesus, we take on His nature and since He's generous we should continually grow in generosity. Being generous isn't what we do; it's who we are. The Holy Spirit shines His light onto areas in our lives where we live in bondage and offers us freedom. Before we can talk about generosity we have to talk about tithing; generosity begins when the tithing issue is resolved.

Here are a few thoughts on what Jesus has to say about tithing:

1. **Tithing puts God first in our lives.** Tithing is giving God the first and best 10% portion of our income, literally putting God first in our lives. The tithe is not an Old Testament concept, but a kingdom principle. We don't give our tithe to God, we return it to Him. (**Genesis 4:3-5, Leviticus 27:30, Matthew 23:23NLT, 1 Corinthians 16:2**) When we choose not to tithe we create space for darkness to hide, inviting the enemy into our lives. (**Malachi 3:7-12, 1 Timothy 6:10**) It's God's grace that supernaturally empowers us to obey in the area of tithing.
2. **Tithing is tangible trust.** Tithing is declaring and demonstrating we trust God over ourselves and that 90% with God is better than 100% by ourselves. Tithing isn't about money, it's about trust, and whatever we do with little is what we'll do with more. (**Luke 16:10**) God is looking for people who don't trust in the world, so He can entrust the world to them.
3. **Tithing is about spiritual growth.** Tithing isn't about money, religion, or the law; it's about spiritual growth. Our hearts follow our treasures, and tithing leads our hearts toward God. (**Matthew 6:21**) Money leads our hearts and our hearts determine the quality of our lives. So, how we use money determines the quality of our lives. (**Proverbs 4:23**) There is a lot of spiritual insight God wants to give us, so it's important to prove ourselves faithful with worldly riches, in order to be trusted with greater heavenly riches. (**Luke 16:11-12NLT**) Tithing reminds us of our salvation, of what God has done for us, who we were, and who we now are. (**John 8:32, Exodus 13:12,14-16**) Tithing sets in motion a generational blessing that directly impacts our children's faith. Love always requires action. We can give without loving but we can't love without giving. (**John 3:16**)

## DISCUSSION

1. How has tithing changed the posture of your heart? Why?
2. Tithing attaches your family's heart to God. Share some of the ways God has shown His faithfulness to you or your family.
3. Describe a time when God removed the spiritual 'lid' in your life after you took a step of obedience.
4. **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What is your next step of tangible trust?**