



WEEK 2 - THOUGHTS FROM THE MESSAGE

ICEBREAKER - As this is the LAST WEEK for Life Groups until the fall, share about one of your favorite summer plans - a vacation, annual holiday, trips to the beach, camping, etc.

Read 1 Kings 17:7-16

- Put yourself in the shoes of the widowed woman. Consider what it would have been like to prepare for the death of you and your child because of famine. How would you feel? Talk through the emotional, spiritual, and mental turmoil that you would go through.
- Have you had moments in your life - similar to Elijah asking the woman to demonstrate faith that she and her son would be okay - when God asked you to give not out of your abundance, but rather, out of your deficit?
- In verse 13 and 14, Elijah talks with the widow about her lack of food. He asks the widow to FIRST make food for Elijah, THEN for her and her son. How does this show priority? Practically for us today, how does giving FIRST to God and THEN to ourselves show the supremacy and priority of God in your life?

“And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.” - Colossians 1:18

“I don’t think there is anything that fear attaches itself more to than finances” - Jason

- Elijah told the widow not to be afraid, even though he was asking her to give extravagantly and engage extreme faith. How has fear attached itself to your finances? Unpack and share about the reasons or excuses that you have/had for not giving or holding tight to your finances. Where is fear present in these reasons?



Read Malachi 3:6-12 “I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty.

“But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’

“In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are **robbing me**. Bring the **whole tithe** into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not **throw open** the floodgates of heaven and **pour out** so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will **prevent pests** from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the Lord Almighty. “Then all the nations will call you **blessed**, for yours will be a **delightful land**,” says the Lord Almighty.

- In this passage, God is calling out the People of Israel’s B.S. (there Belief System)! In your own words, describe what God is saying.
 - How is God calling us out on our BS in this same passage? Make it personal...what is the “whole tithe” you need to bring to the storehouse of God?
 - Is God demanding his people to tithe, or is he pleading with them to tithe?
 - Because fear and finances are so closely connected for us as humans (our security blanket), God clearly communicates in this passage what he will do to protect (prevent pestilence) and produce (no fruit will drop before it is ready) and provide (blessing and delight!). How can your belief system change to embrace God’s best abundance for you?
- There are 3 kinds of people who struggle to give 10% (tithe) in the church: → **Those who have too little** | → **Those who have just enough** | → **Those who have too much**
 - Watch the Derek Carr interview here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLu5q2i7i70>. (Start at minute marker 2:58.) How do Derek and his wife demonstrate obedience and joy with their wealth? Is there hesitation, even though he makes an amazing abundance?
- Write out your own Tithing Timeline, from giving nothing → to giving some → to giving whole tithe → to giving beyond tithe. Share your location on the timeline with you group!
- Impact’s current and potential giving statistics were given during the message: **Current - \$30,000-\$32,000 weekly** with 27% of our body tithing. Impact’s **Potential - \$65,000-\$70,000 weekly** if 100% of our body were tithing.
 - Do these giving/tithing realities surprise you? How do you feel about Impact’s future?
- Pray this prayer together to close as a group: “God, give me a **thirst** to put You **first**. I want to bless You so that You can bless me so that I can bless others.”