

# ***INVESTING FOR LIFE***

## **SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE**

Week 2 November 6, 2022  
“Christianity and Wealth”



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### **OPENING PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the local church and the impact it has on so many lives. We thank you for the generosity of people who systematically give to the local church. Only you know the preventative affect their giving has on numerous lives. Help us to understand that every good gift comes from You and that we are just managers and stewards of it. So give each of us the wisdom to know what to do with what we learn today and then give us the courage to do it.

### **SCRIPTURE PASSAGES**

#### **Malachi 3:7-10 (NIV)**

*<sup>7</sup>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?’*

*<sup>8</sup>“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.*

*“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’*

*“In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup>You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup>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.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Some people get uncomfortable when pastors talk about giving money to the local church. They do not believe the church should ask for money. Some people see giving to the local church as an obligation of Christians that funds the budget. And when it comes to giving to the local church, it's hard to measure the immediate impact of your giving. So what is the importance of giving to the local church?

The church is the hope of the world, because Jesus is the hope of the world. And what an awesome privilege it is to take a percentage of anything he allows me to manage and to place it back into a local church that's getting the job done in a community, both for eternity and in this life. That is the importance of giving to the local church. To put God first in our finances we need to give, save, and live in that order.

## QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite thing about the season of fall?
2. Has the local church (Asbury or any other local church) had a positive impact on your life? Be specific.
3. In the gospels, Jesus talks more about wealth and money than he does about heaven and hell. Why do you think that is?
4. During the message Pastor Eric said that “giving to a local church is prevention giving.” You can't always measure the results of your giving, but it is having an impact in the lives of those who are adapting Biblical principles as the result of the local church. Do you agree or disagree with this analysis? Why or why not?
5. Is it easier for you to be an intervention giver or a prevention giver? See definition below:
  - *Intervention giver* - Giving directly to something that will help immediately.
  - *Prevention giver* - Giving so that something that's bad never happens to begin with.

## FINAL APPLICATION

This week prayerfully consider your financial commitment to the local church.