

## **Giving . LifeGroups @ Central**

**Opening Question:** When you're told, "eat whatever food you find in the house," what do you look for?

### **Reverence of God Refocuses Life** (read Malachi 2:17-3:5)

Giving is a vital part of our faith. With a right attitude about giving, a person can go far in renewing all areas of his or her faith. The Israelites had lost their focus on the "God of Justice", and God was not pleased.

1. How did the people need to refocus their lives? How had they wearied the Lord? Where had their understanding of God gone awry?
2. Discuss how the two analogies in verse 2 describe the purpose of God's coming.

### **Acknowledge His Ownership** (read Malachi 3:6-9)

The sacrificial system of tithes and offerings in the Old Testament were supposed to represent devotion to God because of His goodness towards His people. The Israelites giving was second-rate at best (see Malachi 1:8). They may have feared losing what they had worked so hard to get. However, giving originates in the heart of a giving God who pours out more blessings on His people than we can ever deserve.

1. Discuss how withholding our possession from God is robbing Him. Who owns the possessions in the first place? Why?
2. Review these important verses:
  - John 3:16
  - 1 John 2:2; 4:10
  - 1 Chronicles 29:10-14
  - 2 Chronicles 8:12

3 keys to remember and practice as a Christ follower:

- Give what we can
- Give sacrificially
- Give out of a grateful heart

### **Giving to God Brings His Blessings** (read Malachi 3:10-12)

These verses are a ray of hope in a passage that showed the short comings of the people. It proclaims, "There's a better way!"

1. Discuss the blessings that giving to God brings.
2. What should our attitude be about giving? (see 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Matthew 10:8)

### **Wrap up:**

- What was the most meaningful statement or Scripture you read today?

**Prayer:** Requests