

## Tithes and Loans

These discussion questions are provided to get the conversation going- don't feel that you have to cover all of them. Feel free to pursue other questions as they come up.

### 6:35-6:47pm First and second year tithes: Read 14:22-27; 26:1-11

1. What stands out to you from these verses? How does this compare to your understanding of the tithe or what God expects of us?
2. Was anything surprising about what you read?
3. What kind of impact do you think it would make on the giver to recite the confession from 26:5-10?
4. Work together as a group to put together a confession you could all proclaim prior to an offering modeled after 26:5-10. (time permitting)
5. What do you learn about God from these verses? What do you learn about us?

Numbers 18:21-29 suggests that the Israelites ate only part of the tithe at this annual festival and gave the rest of the tithe to the Levites.

6. How do you see God's grace in these verses?

### 6:47-6:56 Third Year Tithes: Read 14:28-29; 26:12-15

7. The people did as we discussed above for two out of every three years at the Feast of Firstfruits. What happened to the tithes in the third year (14:28-29)? Why was this use of the tithe important to God (see 10:18-19)?

In the third year, the Israelite left his tithe in his hometown and brought an oath to the sanctuary instead of his produce. Read in 26:12-14 what the Israelite swore.

8. What attitudes toward God, others, money and self does the third year tithe encourage? How do you respond?

### 6:56-7:05 Loans: Read 23:19-20 and 24:6-18 for the spirit God expected of borrowers and lenders.

Scholars believe that the loans offered to Israelites were typically to the poor and were "emergency" loans. Business loans were often with foreigners.

9. Why do you think the Lord forbade charging interest on emergency loans? (23:19)
10. Although interest was forbidden, collateral was permitted (24:6, 10-18) How would this affect the relationship between lender and borrower?
11. How could these practices set an example for Christians today?