



In the Zone - First and Ten

LifeGroup leaders, this study should generate a lot of discussion so be preprepared for that tonight and manage the time well. This could also be a touchy issue, please take time to pray to prepare your heart to lead the meeting, I deeply appreciate you and the way you serve your group!

When you think of famous firsts, (1st President, 1st To fly, 1st On the Moon, etc), which one to you is the most significant? Why?

Read: Colossians 1:18, Exodus 20:1-3

God demands to be first in our lives, not equal to another, not coexisting with another. What is His biggest competition for first place in our lives?

In the message Kelly said: “We can’t put God first without His help in doing so.” Why not?

Read: Genesis 4:1-7

Based on what we read here, compare the heart of Cain and Abel. What is similar, what is different?

Who was an owner and who was a manager? How does that understanding effect they way we relate to our “stuff”?

Read: Exodus 13:1-2, 12-14, 23:19, Leviticus 27:30, Proverbs 3:9-10, Malachi 3:8-11

These passages speak to first fruits, and the tithe. They speak of redeeming the fruit of the womb (livestock and our children), of the ground (grain, vegetable, and fruit), and of honoring God with our possessions.

What is the expectation of God's people and what are the promises associated with these passages?

What do you think about the timing of the verses in Exodus 13, as this command was given immediately after the Israelites were set free from slavery? Is this deeply insensitive, astonishingly loving, or something else? Why?

Read: Romans 8:31-32

Is this true for the tangible favor of God (our finances) as well as the intangible aspects of God's favor on our lives?

Read: Psalm 50:7-15

Does this cancel out all the other teaching about how we are to give?

If "God owns the cattle on a thousand hills", why does He need anything from you? Or does He?

Is the call to faithful stewardship and first fruit giving for God's benefit, our benefit, or some strange mix of the two?

Have you ever encountered a preacher or a teaching that took these principles too far? How have you responded to that teaching?

Is that teaching focusing on God's glory or our own? How can we tell the difference?

How do we balance the appropriate rejection of a self centered material gospel with the clear biblical teaching on giving, stewardship, faith, and the promise of God's blessing attached to that obedience?

When you hear the question, "Is the Lord first in your life today?" what stirs in your heart?

How can the group partner together and offer support as we do life and seek God first together?

Close in prayer.