

# JOE MILLIONAIRE

## WEEK 3 - JOE'S PROBLEMS

### GETTING STARTED – CONNECTING

Spending money on the world's number one priority, *fun*, can definitely be fun; there's no question about it!

- ✚ Relay a recent shopping experience where you spent money on fun. What did you buy? How did it make you feel? How did you receive satisfaction from it? How long was it before you set your eyes on buying something else?

### OPENING THE BIBLE – GROWING

God wants us to enjoy life; that's why He has blessed us with so many opportunities. But, we live in a material world surrounded by *things*. The key is not to become trapped by our desire for them above our relationship with God. The only place for God is first, and there are consequences for not putting Him there.

- ✚ Contrast the consequences of putting God first in your life (not just financially but in every way) against the consequences of putting your wants first.
- ✚ God's wisdom says to place giving before fun, but statistics reveal that only eight percent of professing born again Christians tithe. What do you think of this statistic? Why do you think so few honor God this way?
- ✚ Putting God first isn't about the money. It's about the heart. It's about the faith and trust you have in God.

It's about deciding on God's wisdom above the world's or even your own.

**Read Proverbs 3:5-6 and Matthew 17:20** and answer the following questions:

- ✚ How could these verses apply to the situation of tithing? Do you trust God with your money?
- ✚ What, specifically, are some ways you can focus the treasures of your heart towards God's kingdom? What tangible ways can you put your faith in Him?
- ✚ Even when you've decided that God is first in your life in every aspect, it still may seem like your contributions are negligible. In **Judges 6:15**, Gideon questions God's decision to use him because he is weak.
- ✚ Do you ever feel like what little time, money or talents you give to God can't make a difference? If so, why not?
- ✚ What are some of your dreams for your life? For our church? For God's kingdom? How do you think tithing could contribute to the fulfillment of these dreams?

### IN CONCLUSION - NEXT STEPS

Tithing can be a challenge or struggle for some. Try tithing for a specific time frame (even just one week) and see if God will honor His word to you. (Remember, He blesses in more ways than just financial.) God is not restricted to our power and resources. Read **1 Corinthians 2:6-16** and then in your prayer time, commune with God and share your fears and needs. He will give you strength and wisdom beyond the natural.