

**Morning Star Church**  
**Small Group Study Guide**  
**“That’s Nonsense: Less is More” Nov 14-15, 2009**

**Message Synopsis:** This was the second week of our sermon series called, *That’s Nonsense*. In the first part of the series we learned that we could make our money work for us not the reverse. It’s all about following our heart not our money. This past weekend Pastor Mike taught another Biblical concept that seems like nonsense, at first. It is the truth that we can live better on 90% than we can on 100%. While that might seem absurd, it isn’t when we learn to trust God and honor Him with the resources *He gives us*. God is able to take what we give and multiply it back to us.

*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! Malachi 3:10 (NLT)*

**Additional passages:** Genesis 14:14-20; Proverbs 3:9,10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Matthew 23:23-24; Luke 6:38

**Questions for your small group to consider:**

1. In light of the Enron fiasco and the scandal surrounding Wall Street investor, Bernie Madoff, “investing advice” is viewed more skeptically than ever. What kind of qualities would you look for in someone to give you investing advice?
2. When God says, “Try me...test me”, in Malachi 3:10, He is giving us an investing challenge. He is suggesting that if we are faithful to trust Him with our best resources, He will bring blessing beyond our imagination. Have you found this challenge to be true in your own experience? Why would you be reluctant to *test God* with your resources?
3. Pastor Mike shared some illustration from the Bible about how God can take our *less than* and make it *more than* (Gideon’s army, Saul’s armor on David, the widow’s mite). Share with your group how you have seen God take your *less than* and make it *more than* in your life.
4. 1 Corinthians 16:2 suggests that our giving is a very personal expression of our relationship with God, what is the connection between giving and worship in your life based on what God has done for you?

**Prayer Requests:**

**Morning Star Church**  
**“That’s Nonsense”**  
**Part 2 Sermon Notes - November 14-15, 2009**

**When God is first in my finances,  
then I can do more with less.**

- Tithing puts God first in my finances.

*“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.” (Leviticus 27:30)*

*“Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.” (Proverbs 3:9)*

*“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.” (Jesus, Matthew 23:23)*

- Tithing develops our faith by giving God the opportunity to be our Provider.

*“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” (Apostle Paul, Philippians 4:19)*

*“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Jesus, Matthew 6:33)*

- When God is involved, little becomes much.

Gideon (*Judges 7:1-7*)

David (*1 Samuel 17:38-40*)

### **A God of Possibility**

*“For nothing is impossible with God.” (Angle Gabriel to Mary, Luke 1:37)*

*“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”  
(Jesus, Matthew 19:26)*

*“God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”  
(Apostle Paul, 2 Corinthians 9:8)*

*“God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,  
according to His power that is at work within us.”  
(Apostle Paul, Ephesians 3:20)*

## **Possibility becomes Promise**

*“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 you will not have room enough for it.” (Malachi 3:10)*

*“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work....”*

*“Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” (Apostle Paul, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8,10-11)*

### **For further devotional study ...**

- Day 1 Proverbs 3:9-10
- Day 2 Acts 2:44-45
- Day 3 Genesis 14:14-20
- Day 4 Matthew 23:23-24
- Day 5 Luke 6:38
- Day 6 Acts 4:32-37
- Day 7 2 Corinthians 9:6-12