

THE BLESSED LIFE | Week 2

The Principle of First

Exodus 13:1–2, 11–13 (NKJV)

¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, *both* of man and beast; it is Mine.” ¹¹ “And it shall be, when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and gives it to you, ¹² that you shall set apart to the LORD all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males *shall be* the LORD’s. ¹³ But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem *it*, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.”

1. The firstborn must be sacrificed or redeemed.

- a. The clean has to be sacrificed so the unclean can be redeemed.
- b. Jesus is God’s tithe.
- c. It takes faith to give the first.

2. The firstfruits must be offered.

- a. Proverbs 3:9–10
- b. Exodus 23:19 (NKJV)
- c. You can’t give what doesn’t belong to you.
- d. Genesis 4:3–5 (NKJV)
- e. Tithing represents who is first in our lives.

3. The tithe must be first.

- a. Leviticus 27:30 (NKJV)
- b. The tithe is the first that leaves your hand.
- c. Tithing is a heart principle, not a legalistic principle.
- d. Exodus 13:14–15 (NKJV)
- e. Is God first in your life?

DISCUSS & APPLY

These questions can be used for personal study and/or in a Small Group format. We'd love to hear how you are putting them to use, so let us know at smallgroups@mannachurch.org.

1. This week Robert Morris talked about the principle of first, which is giving to God before we see if we are going to have enough. How did you feel as he explained this principle? Do you think giving your firstfruits is hard or easy? Explain.
2. What types of fears or concerns, if any, do you wrestle with most when thinking about the principle of first? Why might it sometimes be easier to believe that we are saved by faith than it is to believe by faith that God will bless us and care for our needs?
3. How does the principle of first apply to your finances? If you have started tithing by faith, how does this principle affect when and how you tithe? In what way does this stretch your faith?
4. How does the principle of first apply to your time? In addition to the firstfruits of your day, what are some other blocks of time where you could give your first to God?
5. If you were to give the firstfruits of your talents, how would that look? In what ways can you honor God at the beginning of everything you do? How can you remind yourself to do this on a regular basis?