



Because of You

Part 1

Discussion Guide

God wants to grow our faith. He wants to provide for us. And because of you, others will be helped, reached and provided for, too. The principle of “first fruits” is essential to becoming the person of faith and the blessing you were created to be.

Jump Start

Leader: This section is designed to get discussions started, examine God’s truth, and apply it to our week.

1. Outside of hygiene, what is the first thing you do when you wake up in the morning?
2. [Read Proverbs 3:9-10 and 1 Kings 17:10-16](#). What are first fruits? Why does God demand our first fruits? In the story of Elijah and the widow, what would you have done in the widow’s position? In the story, it is easy for the widow to be focused on a handful of flour when God wants to do something so much more. In your life, what is the thing that is hardest to trust God with it?
3. [Read Malachi 3:10-11](#). What does God say He will do if we trust Him with our first fruits? Why does He wait for us to give our first fruits before He blesses us? Was there a time when no matter how much time you put in or how much money you saved, you ended up behind in your bills and responsibilities? Have you ever seen God’s blessings by trusting Him with your first fruits? Is the blessing that God gives us in return always the same as the investment?
4. [Read Genesis 4:3-7, Proverbs 19:3 and Hebrews 11:4](#). Why was God less pleased with Cain’s gift than with Abel’s gift? Was it the value of animals compared to the value of vegetables? **Check out [Luke 21:1-4](#)**. What does God value above anything else? Have you ever tried to give God the leftovers of your resources? Why does this hurt God?
5. Final Thought: [Read Genesis 22:1-14 and Matthew 6:21](#). With what “first fruit” did Abraham trust God? What did Abraham’s son represent? God also wants our first when it comes to our future, family, dreams, and even our problems. What would it look like to give God the first fruits in your marriage? In your dreams? In other areas? Overall, which areas are you best at giving God your first fruits? In which area(s) do you need to trust God?

Deeper

*Leader: This section is designed for further use in your Life Group or for personal study.
These can also be used as discussion points and ways to stay connected with
your group throughout the week.*

6. **Read Hebrews 11**. This chapter is commonly referred to as the “Hall of Faith” or “the Faith Chapter”. If you are unfamiliar with any of these stories, look up the cross-references in your Bible. What is faith? How do each of these stories tie in to the first fruits principle? What first fruits did each of them give to God? If you were in their place, which instance would be hardest for you to trust God? Which instance would you be most likely to succeed? Why? If Jesus is our Lord and Savior, and we know He is much more capable than we are, why is it hard for us to trust Him with the things most precious to us?

7. **Read James 2:14-26**. How do faith, action, and the first fruits principle all work together? How does God use His people’s first fruits in James 2? When have you seen God use your tithes and offerings to bless others? Does James believe words hold value? What do you need to do to make sure your action lines up with your words?