



## The First Open Door

**Focus** The lust of the eyes is a major door through which Satan enters our lives. We open this door through greed, unbelief and fear.

**Fun** Divide into two teams. Give each team a piece of paper and a pen. Blindfold two people on each team. Now, set a timer for two minutes. Each team will make a list of things for which they are thankful, taking turns writing them down. Every team member must write on the list. The team who compiles the longest list wins.

**Review** Key Scriptures: Genesis 3:1–6; Malachi 3:7–12

Just as Adam and Eve opened the first door to Satan through the lust of the eyes, we open ourselves to Satan when we don't tithe. The lust of the eyes manifests in three ways:

- *Greed.* (Genesis 3:1–6; Genesis 4:3–7; Leviticus 27:30; Exodus 13:1–2, 23:19)

When Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree, they took what belonged to God. We do the same when we don't tithe. God tests us through the tithe because it shows whether or not we place our trust in Him.

- *Unbelief.* (Malachi 3:7–12; Matthew 23:23; Joshua 6:19, 7:11–12)

The Israelites showed their unbelief when they didn't tithe. Some people in the Church don't believe that tithing is relevant for today. God says that we are robbing Him when we don't tithe. He blesses us and protects us from the devourer when we tithe.

- *Fear.* (Luke 22:3; John 12:1–6; Matthew 26:15, 27:3–5; Exodus 21:32)

Jesus' disciple, Judas, opened the door to Satan through fear of the future. Some believers don't tithe because of this same fear. We are trapped in bondage to the Enemy when we steal from God and choose not to tithe.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** If you haven't done so already, choose your Groups Give project or a way that your group can serve together in the community. Schedule it soon, before calendars get too busy. You will find life and joy in serving together!

- Discuss**
1. How did you first learn about tithing? Did you have a positive or negative perspective on it?
  2. Read Genesis 3:1–6. Eve thought something other than all God had given her would make her happy. How is this similar to our own thinking? What are some ways we want “more,” even as we are abundantly blessed?
  3. How does tithing close the door to greed, unbelief and fear?
  4. Read Malachi 3:6–12. This passage contains a confrontation and a promise. What does it tell us about God's character and His heart for us?
  5. Do you have a story about how tithing changed your life or someone else's? Please tell it to the group.

- Take Home**
- As we conclude, remember the following:
- God tests us through the tithe because it shows where we place our trust.
  - God blesses us and protects us from the devourer when we tithe.
  - We close the door to Satan when we tithe.

**Pray**

Pray for God to break every stronghold of greed, unbelief and fear in the life of each group member.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** As the holiday season approaches, be on the alert for group members who are experiencing stress or loneliness. Reach out to them and encourage them to stay connected.