



## ***All In Series Discussion Guide***

When it comes to God's commitment to humankind and to the church, God is all in. But what about God's people? Do our lives demonstrate the same level of commitment?

Join us for a special worship series that will celebrate one of the most incredible promises God made and kept and how we can respond in ways worthy of God's commitment to us and our church.

### **November 7, 2021: An Overflowing Blessing**

**Key Scripture:** Malachi 3:8-12

*Throughout scripture, the people of God are warned that they should never test God. Jesus repeated that commandment when he was being tempted in the desert. But there is one passage in the Bible where God makes it clear that we should test God - at least when it comes to one thing. If we do so, God promises that in return, we will receive an overflowing blessing.*

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. In the passage from Malachi, God accuses the people of robbing God because they do not bring a "full tithe" into the storehouse of God. What do you think about that accusation? In what ways does this accusation apply/not apply to modern believers?
2. The passage from Malachi is the only time in scripture when God commands the people to test God. If they do, God promises to pour out an overflowing blessing on them. In his message, Brian used some statistics to demonstrate how that promise is still true today. What is your response to what he said?
3. God clearly calls people of faith to be generous with our monetary resources, but we often struggle with that call. What are some of the barriers people face when it comes to giving generously? How can we overcome those barriers?
4. If money was not an object, what ministries would you like to see happen at and through Middletown Christian Church?

## **November 14, 2021: The Choice is Ours**

**Key Scriptures:** Genesis 12:1-3; Deuteronomy 8:1-20

*When God called Abraham, God said that the people of faith would be blessed so that they could become a blessing to the world. Many generations later, as the people of Israel were about to enter the Promised Land, God reminded them of that promise and told them they could either be a blessing or a curse. The choice was theirs to make then, and it's ours to make now. Which path will we choose?*

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. In Deuteronomy 8:17-18, God said, *“Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.”* This passage teaches us that all that we have, from our talents to our treasures, has been made possible by God and belongs first to God. How does this shape your generosity?
2. Why do you think God ties the creation of blessing and curse so closely to how we handle our monetary resources?
3. In what ways have you seen churches reflect blessing or curse in the ways they use their financial resources?
4. In what ways have you seen blessings come from ministries of Middletown Christian? What other blessings would you like to see come from the ministries of MCC?

## **November 21, 2021: Promises Fulfilled**

**Key Scriptures:** Malachi 3:8-12; Psalm 100

*On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, we are going to follow God's command to enter God's courts with thanksgiving and praise by celebrating some of the many ways God has worked through the ministries of Middletown Christian Church. The list of things to celebrate is long and has been made possible by the grace of God as well as your generosity.*

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Despite the many challenges the last 18 months have brought, MCC has done an incredible amount of meaningful ministry. While you may have been aware of some of what we did as a church body, what were your takeaways from today's ministry celebration?
2. Which of these ministries are most important or special to you and why?
3. What feelings or thoughts did you have as you made your financial commitment to God, through the ministries of MCC, for the coming year?
4. What is something about our church or about your faith for which you are grateful?