

# *Firstfruits: Learning to Trust in God*

## Session 5

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## Firstfruits: Learning to Trust in God

- The concept of firstfruits
- Biblical examples of firstfruits
- Applications for me

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## The Concept of Firstfruits

- An illustration from the peach orchard
- Firstfruits in the Old Testament
  - First of families, flocks, crops were dedicated to God (Ex. 34:19, 26; Num. 3:12-13)
  - Firstfruits of the land of promise were offered (Lev. 23: 9-14; Deut. 26:1-11)
  - Israel was God's firstborn (Ex. 4:21-23; Deut. 26:16-19)
- Gift of firstfruits a demonstration of trust and dedication (Proverbs 3:1-10)

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## Biblical Examples of Firstfruits

- Firstfruits of the harvest of Canaan
- City of Jericho
  - City and its contents dedicated to the Lord (Josh. 6:17-19; 26)
  - Achan and Hiel illustrate failure to honor concept of firstfruits (I Kings 16:34)
- Abraham offers Isaac (Heb. 11:17-19)

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## Applications for Me

- All things come from God (James 1:17)
- We are God's instruments for righteousness, His special, holy people, His firstfruits (James 1:18)
- God expects our best (Rom. 12:1-2; Song)

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## God Expects our Best

- Money (II Cor. 8:1-5)
  - Not as Israel in Malachi's day (Mal. 3:8-10)
  - Top of the budget (I Kings 17:10-16)
  - Ready to share (II Cor. 9:6-8; I Tim. 6:17-19)
- Abilities (Matt. 25:14-30)
- Time (Eph. 5:15-16)
- Effort (Eph. 2:10)
- Love (Matt. 22:37)

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## Applications for Me

- All things come from God (James 1:17)
- We are God's instruments (James 1:18)
- God expects our best (Rom. 12:1-2; Song)
- God will take care of us, and will bless us more abundantly (Prov. 3:1-10; 11:28)
- We are stewards, not owners (James 4:3)
- God wants us to be givers – WHY???
- John 3:16