



# Redeeming Why We Give

Reframing Giving in the Context of God's Creative Mission

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## Module 3: Recollecting Giving in the Old Testament—What Went Wrong?

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### 1. The people of the Old Testament had the formula. Yet something went wrong.

- Let's review the formula
  - a. Why: Giving was based on a reciprocal "give & take" relationship with God
  - b. What: Because of that relationship, they gave of their **first & best**
  - c. How: The structure of the Temple & Rituals created a space where humans and God could be together—in relationship.
- In your own words, describe what went wrong with the formula.
  - a. The Why: Where was their focus? And why did that matter?
  - b. The What: Did the what change, or the meaning behind the "what"?
  - c. The How: The structure was important to maintaining being connected to God. What changed?
- In the module, we described the "broken formula" as being a "Human Sin Management" program. Reflecting on this, what aspect of this might feel familiar or resonate? What can we learn from this awareness?

- The prophets seemed to be on both sides of the spectrum. Frustrated and angered by Israel's focus on rules rather than a relationship with God **and** radically hopeful about a future that God promised them.
  - a. Why is it important to remain hopeful, in spite of circumstances?
  - b. And how might grace show up here?
  - c. What might be the implications of that for us today?

## 2. Radio Silence: Around the time of Malachi, God seemed to go completely silent for over 400 years.

- In the module, we learned a little bit about what happened during that time period.
  - It makes sense that we might wonder that God's silence indicated his absence. What might refute this thinking, given what we learned? Why might that be important to consider?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Were there any new discoveries in this part of the module? What did you learn? What surprised you?