

# shift

## Shift: Part 2

### Small Group Questions: Focus on First Gear

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#### Read

Matthew 6:31–33; Exodus 13:12–14; 2 Samuel 24:24; Psalm 47:1; and Proverbs 3:6–10

#### Reflect

It's often easy to get wrapped up in our circumstances rather than focus on God. Without meaning to, we give higher priority to other things, and give him the leftovers. How has God shown you that when you put him first, he can be trusted? Why does he demand we put him first?

Pastor Josh and Lisa Surratt explain why “first” is so important:

1. First sets the tone.
  - a. What do you do first in the morning? What is your routine?
  - b. How does your morning routine reflect your priorities?
  - c. Would you say you spend more time in proactive or reactive mode?
2. First implies more.
  - a. When you've put God first, how has it impacted your day?
  - b. How is Exodus 13:12 a statement of trust?
3. First requires sacrifice.
  - a. How good are you at giving God the first fruits of your labors? Do you consider them yours, or his?
  - b. What has been difficult and cost you something, but you consider well worth it?
    - i. What did it require of you?

#### 4 Firsts That Will Shape Our Year

1. The first of my year.
  - a. What do you want to change about your life this year?
    - i. What is your plan to jumpstart these changes?
    - ii. If you were to do a fast, what would you give up, and why?
    - iii. Do you have a word that could encapsulate your goals for the year? If so, what is it?
    - iv. Do you have the right people in your life to help you reach your goals? Explain.
2. The first of my month.
  - a. What small changes could you make in your schedule and budget to help reach your goals?
3. The first of my week.
  - a. How are you starting your week? What role does worship and rest have in it?
4. The first of my day.
  - a. Will you accept the challenge to give God the first 15 minutes of your day?
  - b. If you have done this, how have you gained greater perspective? How has God used this time with him?
  - c. Which area will be the greatest challenge? To read God's Word, worship, or pray? Explain.

**Respond:** Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?