

# Giving My Tithes

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 14:1-20

**Bible Truth:** I will give my tithe to God.

**Bible Story:** Genesis 14:1-20

**Bible Verse:** “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ In tithes and offerings.” (Malachi 3:8, NIV)

## FOCUS

### Learning Activity: “Use My Money Wisely”

#### Preparation

Use the items from the materials list to help tell the story.

#### Presentation

Say: **One day, a little boy helped his neighbor pick up the apples that had fallen out of his tree. The boy worked diligently and carefully to separate the good apples from the rotten apples. When he finished, the man gave him ten coins.**

**The boy was very excited when he received the ten coins and ran to the market. He saw a bag of candy and used four of his coins to buy himself the candy. He also used the other six coins to buy himself a soft drink. Do you think this boy used his money wisely? Why or why not?**  
Allow children to answer.

**This boy wasn’t very wise in the way he used his money because forgot to give God His part.**

Show 10 coins. **The wisest way to use any amount of money that we earn or are given is by giving God His part, before anything else. The Bible tells us we should give God a tenth of everything we receive. This is called a tithe. A tenth just means that if you divide your money into ten parts, one part belongs to God. Since this little boy earned 10 coins, 1 coin belonged to God. Put 1 coin in a tithe envelope or offering plate. Remember, all that we have, earn, or receive comes from God. He gives us the opportunity to decide how to spend most of the money. The only thing He requires is that we return a small part, 10 percent, to Him. You give your tithe to your church. It is used to help your church tell others about Jesus. When you give the tithe of your money to God, you are helping to carry out the work of God.**

#### Materials

10 coins from your local  
currency  
tithe envelope or offering  
bucket

## SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Malachi 3:8

### Preparation

Write Malachi 3:8 on a poster board or the whiteboard.

On a poster board, write out the “thief” and “Bible” lines for children for the memorization activity.

**Materials**  
poster board  
markers

### Explanation

Ask a child to let you borrow something that they brought to class. (purse, wallet, toy, etc.) Say: **I told** (insert child’s name) **that I was just going to borrow this item. If I decided not to give it back, what would I be doing?** (stealing). **I won’t keep this item because I’m not a thief. I don’t steal from others.** Return the item to the child. **I don’t think any of us would steal from others, but would we steal from God?** Allow children to respond. **Let’s read Malachi 3:8. As we read, try to discover if there are ways we sometimes steal from God.** Read the scripture with children.

Choose a child to underline the words in the verse that show ways in which we can steal from God. Say: **Yes, we can steal from Him when we don’t pay our tithes. Even though we don’t steal from others, are we tempted at times to steal from God by keeping all of our money?** Allow children to respond.

### Memorization Activity

Allow each child to choose a partner. One of them will be the thief. The other one will represent the Bible. Have children face each other and repeat the lines written on the poster board.

Bible: Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

Thief: How are we robbing you?

Bible: In tithes and offerings.

After saying the verse several times, allow the children to change their roles and to repeat the verse again.

## INSTRUCT

### Bible Story: “Abraham Paid His Tithes,” Genesis 14:1-20

### Preparation

Read and study Genesis 14:1-20.

**Materials**  
10 pictures or objects  
of cows, sheep, food,  
jewelry, fabric, or tents  
Bible

## Presentation

Tell the Bible story using the items you have collected.

**“Abram, Abram,” said the unknown person as he ran through Abram’s tents. “The enemy has defeated the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Your nephew Lot and all his family have been taken captive.”**

**Abram called all his servants that were with him. There were 318 men with him that were able to fight. They followed the army and attacked them the next night. In the morning, Abram and his men had recovered all that had been stolen, including Lot, his family, and possessions.**

**When Abram and his men were returning from the battle, the King of Salem went to meet him with supplies for his tired men. Abram knew that this king was a minister for God. He wanted to thank God for giving him the victory over all his enemies, so he gave the king a tenth part of everything he had captured. Use the items you have gathered and give a “tenth” away. This tenth part was called a tithe.**

**God wants us to do the same thing Abram did so many centuries ago. We pay tithes for everything that God gives us. Why? It is God’s command, (Read Malachi 3:8 and 10) and because we want to give honor to God.**

## APPLICATION

### Learning Activity: Problems and Solutions, “How Much Do I Owe God?”

#### Preparation

Place several different amounts of money in three different envelopes. This money should be easy to divide up into a tithe. For example, 10 coins in one envelope, 20 in a second envelope, and 30 in a third envelope.

**Materials**  
various amounts of  
money in your local  
currency  
three envelopes

#### Presentation

Show children the different amounts of money. Work together to separate God’s part (tenth) from my part. (You might also want to share with children that it is good to give more than just our tithe to God. When we give more than the tenth, it is called an offering.)

Once children have an understanding of what a “tenth” means, share with them this story:

**Maria had been saving her money to buy a new dress at the store. It cost \$10. (Feel free to change the amount to match a reasonable amount for clothing in your culture.) She had been saving her money, and she finally had enough to buy the dress. Maria’s**

mom took her to the store to purchase the dress. As they were waiting to pay, Maria remembered her Sunday school teacher telling her about tithes. Maria looked at the \$10 in her hand. She REALLY wanted the dress, but she knew she would be paying for part of it with money that belonged to God. What should Maria do?

Allow children to discuss the situation. Help them realize that Maria should pay her tithes and then continue saving her money until she has enough to buy the dress.

## MINISTRY TIME

### Preparation

None

### Presentation

Give each child a tithe envelope, either one provided by your church or a plain envelope with "Tithe" written across the front. Ask the children to take the envelope home this week. If they receive any money, they should put their tithe in the envelope and bring it back to church. Pray with the children.

**Materials**  
tithe envelope for each  
child