

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 5 • Unit 10 • Week 4

TITHING/OFFERINGS – THE WIDOW'S MITE

OBJECTIVE:

To teach why God has commanded that we should give tithes and offerings freely and willingly—so that the children will come to know the joy of giving.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Ask: If you owned all the silver and gold in the world, what would you do with it? [Encourage each child to give an answer.]

Say: Let's open our Bibles to Haggai 2:8 and find out who does own all the silver and gold in the world. [Call on a student to read the verse.]

Haggai 2:8 "The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine," says the LORD of hosts."

Now let's turn to Psalm 89:11 and read what the Psalmist says God possesses besides all the silver and gold.

Psalm 89:11 "The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; the world and all its fullness, You have founded them."

Ask: What do you think God does with all His wealth? [Give each child a turn to answer.]

Say: Let's read the first part of Deuteronomy 8:18 and see what the Bible says God does with His wealth. [Select a child to read the first part.]

Deuteronomy 8:18 "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth...."

Ask: What "power" or ability has God given us in order to produce wealth? [Encourage the chil-

dren to express their ideas. Wisdom, understanding, knowledge, skill, bodily strength and health are some of the abilities God has given us in order to produce wealth.]

Say: God has blessed mankind by giving people the ability to get wealth, and He also provides that wealth. This earth that God has placed us on is abundantly rich in every imaginable resource needed for sustaining His creation, and He allows us to use it.

Ask: Why would God freely and willingly give of His wealth to us?

Say: Let's all read the last part of Acts 20:35 together: "...It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Say: God knows that giving brings joy and He wants us to become like Him and experience the joy that giving brings. By giving us the ability to earn wealth and providing that wealth God makes it possible for us to experience the "joy of giving." It is one of the many ways in which God expresses His love to us.

BIBLE LESSON:

Supplies: Shawl
Small cardboard box or basket
"Play" money coins
Two very small copper coins

Prepare: If you can't find any play coins at the store, make some of different sizes using poster board. Color some gold and some silver. Make two very small coins and color them copper.

Do: Select a girl student to be the "widow" and give her the two small copper coins. Give her the shawl to put around her shoulders. Instruct her to place her coins in the box after you read the verse about the widow putting in her two copper coins.

Divide the gold and silver coins among the rest of the students.

Say: I want you to put all your coins in the box.

Do: After everyone is seated, read the following verses to them.

Mark 12:41-42 "Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites [very small copper coins] which make a quadrans [a Roman coin, worth only a fraction of a penny]."

Let the "widow" put her two copper coins in the box or basket. Then continue reading.

Mark 12:43-44 "So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, 'Assuredly, I say to

you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in of their abundance; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

Ask: Who experienced the most joy in giving—the rich people or the poor widow? Why?

Is it the amount of money we give, or the attitude with which we give, that God is concerned about? Why?

LESSON APPLICATION:

Ask: How does God teach us that giving brings greater joy than receiving?

Say: Let's open our Bibles and read Leviticus. 27:30. [Select a child to read.]

Leviticus 27:30 "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S. It is holy to the LORD."

God has commanded us to give back to Him one tenth of what we have earned. This is called tithing. Everything we produce comes from the physical creation—the food we eat; the gold and silver jewelry and the clothes we wear; the coal, oil, gas and electricity we use for energy; computers; cars; houses and buildings—all come from the physical creation in one way or another.

Ask: Do you know of anything that we produce that does not come from the physical creation?

What else has God commanded us to do in order to learn the joy of giving? [Encourage the children to respond.]

Deuteronomy 16:16-17 "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you."

Say To bring a gift means to bring an offering. So God is teaching us the joy of giving by having us tithe, that is to give one tenth of what we earn, plus giving an offering on His Holy Days according to how He has blessed us.

Ask: While the tithes and offerings are for God, what does He tell us to do with them?

Numbers 18:26 "Speak thus to the Levites, and say to them: 'When you take from the children of Israel the tithes I have given you from them as your inheritance, then you shall offer up a heave offering of it to the LORD, a tenth of the tithe.'"

Say: In ancient Israel, the Levites were chosen by God for the purpose of caring for and administering holy things. God gave the Levites His tithes from the Israelites. They then tithed on what they were given.

Later, when Christ established His church on the day of Pentecost almost 2,000 years ago, He commanded that His ministers should receive His tithes so as to finance the needs of the ministry and the Church.

Let's read what Paul has to say in 1 Corinthians 9:13-14. [Let a student read both verses.]

1 Corinthians 9:13-14 "Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel."

Ask: What should our attitude be when we give our tithes and offerings? [Call on a student to read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.]

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 "But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

Say: It is impossible to "outgive" God. When we cheerfully and willingly give our tithes and offerings what does God say? [Choose a student to read Malachi 3:10.]

Malachi 3:10 "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. And try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."

God shows His love by giving us life and all that is needed to sustain that life. By tithing we show our worship, respect, love and admiration for Him. By tithing we also express honor and acknowledge God's supremacy.

MUSIC:

Teacher's choice from the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 "But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

family activity

THE POINT:

This week's lesson has been about the teachings of Jesus Christ on tithing, offerings and the joy of being a cheerful giver. The widow's mite was chosen to illustrate that it is not the amount we give but the attitude with which we give.

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Have your child read aloud Matthew 28:19-20. Talk about the many ways the tithes and offerings are used in God's work. Explain that God has commissioned the Church to preach the gospel and feed the flock.

Encourage your children to save a tithe of the money he/she earns. They will then have tithes they have earned to give God and experience the joy of giving. They can put their tithes in the mail or drop them in the basket on a Holy Day. Encourage them to also give an offering. Children learn by doing. It is the "doing" and not the amount that God looks upon favorably.

MEMORY VERSE:

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