

The Tithe

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Tithing

Scripture: Malachi 3:10-11

Memory Verse: Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty. - Malachi 3:10

The Children's Sermon

Hey kids! Today, we're going to talk about something really special that God tells us we can do. It's like a special secret for getting blessings. It's called tithing. God says we can test Him with our tithes, and when we do, He will bless us abundantly! That's like getting a treasure chest full of goodies because we trusted God.

Tithing is when we give 10% of what we get—like if you get 10 dollars for your allowance, 1 dollar of that is your tithe. It's a way to say "thank you" to God for all He gives us. And guess what? When we give our tithes, God opens the windows of heaven and pours out a great blessing on us! It's like when it rains, and suddenly, flowers start to bloom everywhere. God's blessings can bloom in our lives too.

Now, these blessings from tithing are not just about getting more toys or candy. Sure, God can bless us with things we need or want, but He also gives us blessings like being healthy, feeling peaceful and happy, having friends, and seeing our family taken care of. It's like getting a big hug from God, saying, "I've got you."

And there's more! When we give our tithes, God also promises to keep the enemy away. The enemy is like a sneaky fox trying to mess things up. But God is like the strong lion that keeps the fox away from us. So, by tithing, we're under God's protection. Isn't that cool?

Now, you might wonder, "How do I start tithing?" It's simple. You can start with whatever you have. If you get money for your birthday or as an allowance, you can take a little bit of that and give it as your tithe. You can give it to your church, or however your family decides to give back to God. It's like planting a seed that grows into a big, beautiful tree.

Remember, tithing is not just about giving; it's about trusting God. It's saying, "God, I believe you will take care of me." And God loves it when we trust Him. It makes Him super happy, and He wants to show us how much He can do for us.

But wait, there's even more good news! Tithing blessings are not just for now; they're for always. It's like a gift that keeps on giving. The more we trust God and give our tithes, the more blessings we'll see in our lives. It's not always instant—sometimes it's like waiting for a seed to sprout—but it will happen.

And tithing helps us learn to be generous. Being generous means sharing what we have with others. When we're generous, we're acting like God because God is super generous with us. It's like when you share your snacks or toys with friends. It makes everyone feel good.

So, kids, remember, tithing is a way to show God we trust Him, and it opens the door for so many blessings. Health, happiness, protection, and even more—these are all part of

the tithing blessings. And when we give, we're not just helping ourselves; we're helping others too. It's like being part of a big, loving family where everyone looks out for each other.

Let's be brave and start tithing, trusting God every step of the way. And let's watch how God works in our lives, bringing blessings and keeping us safe. It's going to be an amazing adventure with God leading the way. Remember, with tithing, we're not losing anything; we're gaining so much more in return.

Bible Memory Verse

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty. - Malachi

3:10

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Small boxes or envelopes

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into small pieces that can represent different types of food (fruits, veggies, grains).
- Prepare the small boxes or envelopes to act as 'storehouses'.

Do This:

1. Have the children color and decorate their 'storehouse' boxes or envelopes with markers or crayons.
2. Explain that in the Bible, a 'tithe' means giving a part of what we have to God, and in ancient times, people brought food to the storehouse. Today, we can give in many ways to help others and support God's work.
3. Invite the children to use the glue to stick their paper 'food' onto a larger piece of paper to create a collage. While they work, discuss how giving helps provide for the needs of others and how God promises to bless us when we give. Encourage them to think of ways they can give or help others in their daily lives.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A jar of marbles or any small items (100 pieces)
- Empty smaller jars or containers (10)
- Play money (optional)
- Printed verses from Malachi 3:10-11
- Stickers or small prizes

Get Ready:

- Place the 100 marbles or small items into one large container.
- Set up a table with the empty smaller jars or containers in a line.
- Print out Malachi 3:10-11 on paper and have it displayed where all the kids can see.
- Have the play money and stickers or small prizes ready to be handed out.

Do this:

1. ****Introduction to Tithing****: Explain to the children that tithing means giving back a small part of what we have to God because everything we have is a gift from Him. Use

the jar of 100 marbles to visually demonstrate that if we have 100 of something, tithing means we give 10 of those back to God.

2. **Interactive Tithing Activity**: Invite each child to come up and take 10 marbles from the large container and put them into one of the smaller jars. This represents their act of tithing. If using play money, you can also give each child play money equivalent to the value of 100 marbles, and they can place the money equivalent of 10 marbles in the offering plate.

3. **Reading Malachi 3:10-11**: Gather the children around and read the verses from Malachi 3:10-11, emphasizing that God promises to bless us when we are faithful in tithing. Explain that the blessings may not always be money or things, but can also be friends, family, and the joy of sharing.

4. **Discussion and Reflection**: Ask the children how they felt about giving some of their marbles away and discuss the concept of blessings. Encourage them to think of ways they can give or tithe in their own lives, not just with money but also with time, sharing toys, or helping others.

5. **Reward for Participation**: Conclude the activity by giving each child a sticker or a small prize as a reminder of their participation and the lesson on tithing. Encourage them to place the sticker on their Bible or somewhere they will see it daily as a reminder of the importance of giving back to God.

Snack Activity: Tithing Treats

You'll Need:

- 10 small fruit snacks or candies

- 1 small bowl
- 1 larger bowl

Get Ready: Gather all your materials and place them on a clean table where all the kids can reach.

Do this:

1. Explain that tithing means giving back to God a portion of what He has given us, just like in Malachi 3:10-11. It's like saying 'thank you' to God for all the blessings He gives us.
2. Give each child 10 small fruit snacks or candies. Tell them these represent everything God has blessed them with.
3. Ask them to count their snacks and then take one snack (or 10% since tithing is giving 10% back to God) and place it in the small bowl. Explain that this small bowl represents their offering to God, showing trust and gratitude.
4. Move the small bowl's contents into the larger bowl, explaining that when we give to God, He promises to bless us even more, just like the 'windows of heaven' mentioned in Malachi 3:10-11. The larger bowl represents the blessings God pours out for our obedience and faithfulness in tithing.
5. Let the children eat the remaining 9 snacks, reminding them that God always takes care of us and provides for us, even when we give Him our portion.

Game Activity: Tithing Treasure Hunt

You'll Need:

- 10 small treasure boxes or envelopes
- Play money or real coins
- Stickers or stamps for rewards
- A printout of Malachi 3:10-11

Get Ready: Hide the treasure boxes or envelopes around your play area before the children arrive. In each box, place an amount of play money or coins. Make sure the amounts vary, but all together they add up to an amount that is easy to calculate 10% of. Also, have the printout of Malachi 3:10-11 visible in the play area.

Do this:

1. Start by gathering the children and reading Malachi 3:10-11 together. Explain that tithing means giving back a small part of what we have been given to show our trust and thankfulness.
2. Tell the children they are going on a treasure hunt to find the hidden boxes or envelopes. Once they find them, they should bring them back to a central location.
3. After all the treasures have been found, help the children count the total amount of money collected. Then, calculate 10% of that total together. Explain that in tithing, this portion would be given back to God as a way of saying thank you and helping others.
4. Finally, reward each child with a sticker or stamp for participating and remind them that giving, like in tithing, makes us all treasure hunters for God's kingdom.

Craft Activity: Tithing Treasure Boxes

You'll Need:

- A small cardboard or paper mache box per child
- Paints and brushes
- Stickers or decorations (optional)
- Bible verse printout of Malachi 3:10-11

Get Ready: Prepare a small printout of Malachi 3:10-11 for each child. Set up a painting and decorating station with all materials easily accessible for the children.

Do this:

1. Start by explaining the concept of tithing and how it is giving back to God what is His. Read Malachi 3:10-11 together and discuss how God promises to bless us when we are faithful in tithing.
2. Give each child a box to paint and decorate. While they work, encourage them to think about what 'treasures' they can give to God, not just money but time, love, and service.
3. Once the boxes are dry, help the children glue the Bible verse inside the lid of their treasure box. Encourage them to place something inside the box each week that represents their 'tithe' to God. It could be a note about helping someone, a drawing, or a small part of their allowance.

Prayer Activity: Heavenly Harvest

You'll Need:

- A small basket or box
- Fake fruits and vegetables (or pictures of them)
- Paper and pencils

Get Ready: Write Malachi 3:10-11 on a large piece of paper and display it where everyone can see.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Malachi 3:10-11 together. Explain that tithing is like planting seeds for God, and He will bless us with a big harvest.

2. Ask the children to think of something they can 'give' as their tithe. It might be helping at home, sharing with friends, or giving part of their allowance. Have them draw or write it on a piece of paper.

3. Let each child place their paper in the basket or box and say a short prayer, asking God to help them give their 'tithe' happily and to bless their 'harvest'.