

The Tithe

UPPER 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, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.' - 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, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.' -

Malachi 3:10

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue
- Stickers or glitter (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large shapes that can represent 'storehouses' (barns, boxes, etc.).
- Prepare an example storehouse to show the children what they're aiming to create.

Do This:

1. Give each child a piece of construction paper and ask them to design their own 'storehouse' using the markers, crayons, and scissors. Encourage creativity!
2. While they work, discuss the importance of giving and how God promises to bless us when we are faithful in tithing. Relate the activity to the memory verse, explaining that our 'storehouses' can be filled with blessings.
3. Once the storehouses are created, have the children write the memory verse on their storehouse or inside it. They can decorate with stickers or glitter to symbolize the blessings. Share each storehouse in a show-and-tell format, allowing each child to express what kind of blessings they would like to fill their storehouse with, reflecting on the promise in Malachi 3:10.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Play money
- Small baskets or containers
- Printed "blessings" (e.g., fruits, raindrops, sunshine) on paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- A large map or poster of a community (can be drawn or printed)
- Malachi 3:10-11 printed out

Get Ready:

1. Cut out the printed "blessings" and set them aside in a pile.
2. Place the map or poster on a wall accessible to the children.
3. Distribute an equal amount of play money to each child and set the baskets in the middle of the room.
4. Read Malachi 3:10-11 aloud to the children, emphasizing the promise of blessings and protection for obedience in tithing.

Do this:

1. **Understanding Tithing**: Explain that tithing means giving 10% of what we have to God, and in return, He promises to bless us abundantly. Ask the children to calculate 10% of the play money they have been given.
2. **Giving the Tithe**: Have the children place their 10% tithe into the baskets. Discuss how this act of faith can be challenging but is a way to show trust in God's provision.
3. **Receiving Blessings**: For each "tithe" placed in the basket, allow the child to pick a "blessing" from the pile. They can then tape this blessing on the community map, symbolizing how their obedience to God's command can bring blessings not just to them but to their community as well.
4. **Protection from the Devourer**: Explain that Malachi 3:11 promises protection from the devourer for our sakes. Discuss what this might mean in their lives (protection, peace, health) and in the community. Have them think of specific "devourers" (like illness, sadness, poverty) and write or draw them on the back of their blessings. Then, as a group, pray over the map, asking for God's protection and blessings over their lives and community.
5. **Reflection and Sharing**: Conclude by giving the children a moment to share how they felt about the activity and what they learned about tithing and God's promises. Encourage them to think of ways they can practice giving in their lives.

Snack Activity: Tithing Treats

You'll Need:

- 10 small snack bags
- A variety of seeds (sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, etc.)
- Stickers or markers to decorate bags
- A large bowl

Get Ready: Read Malachi 3:10-11 together and discuss what tithing is and how it can be like planting seeds for a future harvest.

Do this:

1. Mix all the seeds together in a large bowl. Explain that this mix represents the blessings God gives us.
2. Count out 10 small snack bags. Explain that each bag represents 10% of our blessings that we should give back to God as our tithe.
3. Fill each bag with an equal amount of seed mix. As they do this, discuss how tithing (giving back to God) can lead to God opening the 'windows of heaven' and pouring out blessings (like the seeds) that there will not be room enough to store.
4. Use stickers or markers to decorate the bags with symbols or words that represent blessings or thankfulness. Encourage the kids to keep one bag for themselves and consider giving the others away as a gesture of sharing God's blessings.
5. Close with a prayer, asking God to help each child understand the importance of giving and to bless the seeds they are planting in their lives and in the lives of others.

Game Activity: Tithing Treasure Hunt

You'll Need:

- A large open space (indoor or outdoor)
- Small tokens or coins (play money or real coins if appropriate)
- Treasure chests or boxes (one for each team)
- Printed verses from Malachi 3:10-11
- Pens and paper for each team

Get Ready: Hide the tokens or coins around the activity area before the children arrive. Place the treasure chests or boxes at a starting point, and divide the printed verses into phrases or words, hiding them separately from the tokens.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into teams and give each team a treasure chest or box, a pen, and a piece of paper. Explain that their goal is to collect as many 'tithes' (tokens or coins) as they can and find the pieces of the verse from Malachi 3:10-11.
2. When you say 'go,' teams will hunt for the tokens and verse pieces. Once a team collects a token, they must return it to their treasure chest before hunting for more. If they find a verse piece, they should also return it to their starting point and attempt to piece the verse together on their paper.
3. The game ends when all tokens and verse pieces have been found. Teams then count their tokens and attempt to assemble the verse correctly. The team with the most tokens and the first to correctly assemble the verse wins. Discuss the importance of tithing and how God promises to 'pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it' as they worked together to find the tithes and understand His word.

Craft Activity: Tithing Treasure Boxes

You'll Need:

- Small wooden or cardboard boxes (one per child)
- Acrylic paint and brushes
- Decorative items (stickers, glitter, etc.)
- Bible verse printout of Malachi 3:10-11
- Scissors and glue

Get Ready: Prepare a sample treasure box to show as an example. Print out Malachi 3:10-11 on paper that can be cut and glued to the box.

Do this:

1. Begin with a discussion on Malachi 3:10-11, focusing on what tithing is and why it's important. Explain how tithing is giving back to God what is already His, and how it can be a 'treasure' we offer.
2. Give each child a box to paint and decorate as their 'Tithing Treasure Box.' While they work, encourage them to think of things they can offer to God, not just money but time, talents, and prayer.
3. Once the boxes are dry, help the children cut out the Bible verse and glue it to their box. Conclude with a prayer, asking God to help them fill their treasure boxes with their tithes and offerings.

Prayer Activity: Blessings and Tithes Treasure Chest

You'll Need:

- A small wooden or cardboard treasure chest (one per child)
- Decorative items (stickers, markers, glitter glue, etc.)
- Fake gold coins or paper to create 'blessing coins'

Get Ready: Before the class, write Malachi 3:10-11 on a large poster board and set up a crafting station with all the decorative items and the treasure chests.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Malachi 3:10-11 together as a class. Discuss what tithing is and how God promises to bless us when we give faithfully.
2. Give each child a treasure chest and let them decorate it as their 'Blessings and Tithes Chest'. Encourage them to think of it as a place where they can store reminders of their blessings and commitments to give.
3. Once the chests are decorated, have each child write down a way they can give back to God (it could be through service, sharing, or giving) on a 'blessing coin'. They will place this inside their chest as a reminder of their commitment. Conclude with a prayer asking God to help them be faithful in their giving and to open their eyes to the blessings He pours out in return.