

Lesson 25

Learning About Tithes and Offerings: Giving Back to God

Why Give Tithes and Offerings?

God has given us many blessings, and one way we can thank Him is by giving back a portion of what we have. When we willingly give tithes and offerings, we show our love for God and our gratitude for all He has done for us.

What is Tithing?

In the Bible, people like Abraham and Jacob gave one-tenth of everything they had to God (Hebrews 7:1–10; Genesis 14:19–20; 28:20–22). This is called tithing. Today, we follow this commandment by giving one-tenth of our income to God. It's like giving back a small part of what we have to thank Him for everything.

Why We Should Give Cheerfully

When we give, we should do it happily and willingly. God loves it when we give with joy in our hearts (2 Corinthians 9:7). Even if it's hard to give sometimes, God sees our efforts and blesses us for our cheerful giving.

How Our Offerings Help Others

The money we give as tithing and offerings helps the Church (God's people) do many important things:

Tithing:

- Building churches (meetinghouses)
- Support missionary work
- Educate children in Church schools
- Print lesson materials
- Help those in need

Other Offerings:

- Fast Offerings: When we fast, we give the money we would have spent on food to help people who are hungry or need help.
- Donations: We can also give money to help with missionary work, building churches, and helping people in emergencies.

The Blessings of Giving

God promises to bless us when we give faithfully. He says if we give our tithes and offerings, He will open the windows of heaven and give us so many blessings that we won't have enough room to hold them all (Malachi 3:10). Not only will He help us with our needs, but He will also bless us spiritually, helping us grow closer to Him and feel His love in our lives.

Why It's Important to Give

Giving tithes and offerings is an important way we can show God that we love Him and trust Him to take care of us. It's like saying thank you to Him for all the good things He does for us. And when we give, we help build God's kingdom on earth.

Scripture References:

- Hebrews 7:1–10; Genesis 14:19–20; 28:20–22 (Tithing in the Bible)
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 (God loves cheerful givers)
- Malachi 3:10 (God promises blessings for faithful giving)

Title: "The Generosity of Caleb"

In the bustling town of Maplewood, there lived a kind-hearted young boy named Caleb. Known for his compassionate spirit and willingness to lend a hand, Caleb embraced each day with a heart full of love and a desire to make a difference in the world around him.

One bright Sunday morning, Caleb sat attentively in the wooden pews of the town's quaint chapel, listening intently to the teachings of the preacher about the importance of giving back to God through tithes and offerings. As the preacher spoke of sharing one-tenth of one's blessings with God and offering additional gifts out of love, Caleb felt a stirring within his soul.

Inspired by the words of the preacher and the example of Jesus, Caleb made a solemn vow to emulate their selfless generosity. He understood that giving back to God and helping those in need were not only acts of kindness but also expressions of love and gratitude.

From that moment forward, Caleb committed himself to setting aside a portion of his weekly allowance, placing it lovingly in a small wooden box designated for "Tithes and Offerings." Though sometimes tempted to spend his money on toys or treats, Caleb remembered the preacher's words: "God loves a cheerful giver."

With a joyful heart, Caleb continued to contribute his tithes and offerings, understanding that even his modest gifts could bring about meaningful change in the world. He imagined his donations merging with those of others, forming a river of compassion and goodwill that flowed far and wide.

As time passed, Caleb witnessed the profound impact of his generosity. His tithes helped build new places of worship and supported missionaries spreading the message of God's love. His offerings provided food and comfort to families facing hardship, both near and far.

Through his acts of kindness, Caleb experienced the blessings of giving. He felt a deep sense of fulfillment and purpose, knowing that he was following in the footsteps of Jesus and making a positive difference in the lives of others.

With each contribution, Caleb's faith grew stronger, and his commitment to serving God and his fellow beings deepened. He understood that by giving back to God, he was sowing seeds of love and compassion that would bear fruit for years to come.

And so, Caleb continued on his journey of generosity, knowing that each act of kindness brought him closer to God and helped spread love and light in a world that sorely needed it.