

Teaching Children to Tithe



How do we teach our kids to be good stewards?

Debbie Salter Goodwin in *Raising Kids to Extraordinary Faith* gives some general suggestions to help you teach children to tithe.

1. Give the child an allowance in a way that the child can separate the tithe easily. If the child receives a dollar, give the child three quarters, two dimes, and a nickel. The child can easily set aside a dime.
2. Make sure each child has tithing envelopes, or something similar to use. If your church does not provide them, consider ordering the tithe envelopes from the Nazarene Publishing House, www.nph.com. An option is to use a regular letter-size envelope. Let the children decorate the envelope with crayons or stickers to make it personal.
3. Encourage children to set aside the tithe as soon as they earn money from allowance or small jobs.
4. Make sure the child watches you place your tithe in the offering plate.
5. Talk to the child about how and when you started tithing.
6. Share how God has blessed your obedience to tithe.
7. Talk about tithing as God's plan to take care of His Church.
8. Read to the child Bible stories that teach God's plan for giving.
9. Purchase from WordAction the "So . . . You Want to Give to God?" pamphlet to read with the child.
10. Download the free leader's guide at www.wordaction.com/go/GIVE.
11. Demonstrate to your child the joy of giving to God.

Some Bible stories or passages that will help you teach children about tithing are:

Malachi 3:8-10 tells of God's blessing when we tithe.

Genesis 14 tells of Abram giving a tenth of everything to Melchizedek, the priest, after God helped Abram rescue his nephew Lot from the enemy kings.

Genesis 28:10-22 tells of Jacob's dream. Afterward, he built an altar and tells God that he will give Him a tenth of all he owns.

In Matthew 23:23, Jesus reminded the Pharisees and teachers of the law that tithing is important, but they also needed to practice justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

In 1 Corinthians 16:1-4, Paul tells the Corinthians how to set aside the money to be given to the church.

Debbie Goodwin says: "The world is desperate for positive leaders and role models. You have the opportunity to participate in supplying the biggest need for the next generation. You're influencing new disciples to take their places in the worldwide community of faith. How they hear God, how they perceive their responsibilities, and how they collect valuable experiences in ministry will shape who they become. There's no better time than now to raise ordinary kids to extraordinary faith."

A habit of tithing that is practiced consistently from preschool or early elementary ages can become an automatic lifetime habit. It is never too soon to teach a child to give to God.

Contributed by Beula Postlewait, Children's Ministries International Coordinator