

Missions Lesson: Stewardship

January, Week 4

By Joy Bolton

Objective:

- Children will learn what the Bible teaches about stewardship, including tithes and offerings.
- Children will learn how to set up a banking system to help them be good managers of their money.

Materials:

- Three clear jars to use for demonstration. Label jars: Tithe, Save, Spend
- Three plastic containers for each child
- Three labels per child
- Markers
- 10 of anything (wrapped candy, buttons, etc.)
- 10 dimes
- 10 one-dollar bills
- Bible
- Church giving envelope and/or offering plate
- If available, missions offering envelopes such as Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (International Missions), Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (North American Missions), Eliza Broadus Offering (Kentucky Missions)
- A plastic bag for each child to carry containers home

Procedure:

1. Show children the three clear jars and read the labels.
2. Explain: These jars are a way to help us be good managers of our money. Sometime we call this stewardship. In Bible times, a steward was a person who took care of his master's possessions. In the same way, God has given us everything we have and we are to be good stewards or managers of what He has provided.
3. Read Exodus 34:22 and Proverbs 3:9. Say: The Bible teaches us to give God the "first fruits" of what we have. That means that we are to give God a portion of what He has given us as a way to

say thank you to God and to show what we trust Him to provide for our needs.

4. Read Leviticus 27:30. Say: The amount the Bible teaches us to give to God first is called a tithe.
5. Ask: Who knows what a tithe is? Explain: A tithe is one tenth. Show the 10 items you brought. Count them. Say: There are 10 _____ here. One tenth would be one.
6. Put the one item in the tithe jar. Say: Another important thing for us to do is to save some of what we have. The amount you save is up to you, but for our demonstration, we are suggesting you save the same amount as the tithe, one-tenth.
7. Put an item in the save jar. Ask: How many items do we have left? (Eight.) These can go in the spend jar.
8. Now, let's do this again with real money. We will start with dimes. Show the 10 dimes. How many dimes should go in the tithe jar? (One.) How many dimes should go in the save jar (At least one.) How many dimes go in the spend jar (whatever is left).
9. Let's do this again with dollar bills. How many dollar bills go in the tithe jar? (One.) How many dollar bills go in the save jar? (At least one.) How many dollar bills go in the spend jar (whatever is left).
10. Ask: How many of you receive money from time to time? Ask children to identify ways they receive money such as an allowance, gifts, payment for chores, etc. Whatever money you receive, you can use this system to be a good steward or manager of your money.
11. The money that goes in the tithe jar should be brought to God each week. We give our money to God through our church to be used by our church for work here and missions around the world. (Show church envelope and/or offering plate.)
12. Sometimes our church has special missions offerings. (Show missions offering envelopes if available.) How can we give money to missions offerings and still give the tithe to God? (Take some out of the spend or save jar.) When we do this, we should not complain but be happy. Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. This verse teaches us that God is pleased when we give cheerfully. It makes Him happy when we give our tithes and offerings.

13. Lead in prayer that we will be faithful in giving God our tithes and offerings.

Activity:

- Give each child three plastic containers and three labels.
- Have the children write Tithe, Save, Spend on the labels and place a label on each.
- Ask children how they plan to use the containers at home.
- Give each child a plastic bag to carry the containers home.



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