



GIVING AND SERVING

RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 9+

Teaching children about giving through tithes and offerings is not primarily about giving to God; it's about recognizing our dependence on Him as the giver of all good gifts. We are stewards, not owners. Giving reminds us that everything we have comes from God, and by giving back, we acknowledge that it is already His. As followers of Jesus, we give a portion of our income to support God's work and meet the needs of others. Paying tithes is a form of worship and a tangible way to express gratitude. Teach children that giving is something to be thankful for: "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

TEACHING KIDS TO TITHE

Teaching children to tithe can be challenging at first. Asking a child to give \$1 of the \$10 they earned may confuse or upset them. If they resist initially, don't worry; you haven't failed. Instead, they've just begun to learn an important lesson. Through practice and patience, they will come to understand the joy and significance of giving. Over time, children will develop an appreciation for the importance of tithing and giving back to God.

But do we have to tithe? While tithing may not be an absolute requirement under the New Covenant, it remains a reasonable expectation and a valuable practice rooted in Scripture. In the Old Testament, tithing was commanded as part of worship and stewardship: "Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD's; it is holy to the LORD" (Leviticus 27:30). In the New Testament, while the emphasis shifts from strict percentages to the posture of the heart, the principle of generous giving is upheld. Paul reminded us, "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). The issue is not merely the amount we give but the heart we develop through giving. God is

recreating us in His image, and because He is a generous giver who “did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all” (Romans 8:32), we, too, are called to reflect His generosity. Holding generosity as a core value is part of becoming more like Him, who withholds no good thing from His children.

STEWARDSHIP IN THE BIBLE

This is a great time to teach the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25. In this story, Jesus describes three men entrusted with their master’s money. Two of the men invested wisely and doubled their amounts, and the master praised them, saying, “You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much” (Matthew 25:21, 23). The third man, however, buried his money out of fear and was chastised for his poor stewardship. The master took the money from him and gave it to the others.

This parable teaches us to be wise with our resources and financial choices, as God has called us to be good stewards. Every decision we make needs to be as a steward of His glory. As 1 Peter 4:10 says, “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

GENEROSITY EXTENDS BEYOND FINANCES

As believers, we have the wonderful opportunity to glorify God through the spiritual discipline of service. God entrusts each of us with gifts including time, bodies, and breath, and we honor Him when we use them to serve others.

At this stage, consider sitting down with your children to plan a family service project. Who has God put in your path? What has He called your family to contribute toward helping? Pray together before and after the project, asking God to reveal His love to the people you serve.

Afterward, take time as a family to reflect on what you learned and how the experience impacted you and those you served. Conclude by praying for God to bless the people you encountered and to continue His work in their lives.

Through giving and serving, we teach children the value of stewardship, gratitude, and being the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. These disciplines not only glorify God but also help children grow in faith and character.

Churches periodically offer opportunities for families to come together and serve through specific projects or events. These are excellent chances to connect with others, make a meaningful impact, and explore where and

how God may be calling your family to serve. Take advantage of these opportunities as you discern your gifts and passions and allow God to shape your family's heart for ministry and service.

If your family discovers opportunities for your church to partner with organizations or initiatives, share them with your pastor. If they align with the church's values and mission, leadership can prayerfully consider working to establish a meaningful partnership that furthers God's work in the community and beyond.

YOU WILL BE SURPRISED!

Most children love to serve. They enjoy hands-on projects and take pride in contributing to something meaningful. Help them find an active role, and they will feel successful and look for more opportunities! Look for a project your family can adopt, allowing you to build relationships and minister to those in that community, whether it's a specific family or the director of an organization.

Service Projects

Here are a few ideas to get your family started:

- Organize items at a local foster care supply facility.
- Find a ministry to serve in at your church. Door greeters and welcome teams are something the whole family can do together.
- Volunteer at a local food ministry, helping to organize their food warehouse.
- Volunteer at a local pregnancy resource center or solicit donations of diapers, wipes, and similar items.
- Shop for children enrolled in your church's Christmas assistance program.

Don't hesitate to share with your child the areas of service in your life that they don't see. Let them know you serve not because you have to but because you get to, out of gratitude and love for God. If you only serve when your child is involved, they might mistakenly believe it's all about them. By sharing your personal commitment to serving others, you demonstrate that service is a natural and joyful response to God's blessings, and you model a heart that reflects His love.

By consistently participating in a project, your family can create meaningful connections while modeling the love of Christ.

MODELING STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING

Children learn best by watching what you do. Here are a few practical ways to teach stewardship and generosity:

- **Encourage children to give an offering.** Discuss the purpose of giving, emphasizing how offerings are different from tithes. Explain that a tithe is 10% of your income, while an offering is additional money given to the church or other causes.
- **Let your child see you pay your tithes.** If you typically pay online, invite them or consider writing a physical check one week and showing them the process. Discuss why giving is a form of worship and an act of trust in God.
- **Start a savings account or piggy bank for your child.** Teach them the importance of saving and help them divide their money into categories like saving, spending, and giving.
- **Teach the concept of stewardship.** Stewardship is the responsible management of something entrusted to your care. Teach your children that stewardship means using what God has given, including their time, money, and talents. Encourage them to save, tithe, and spend responsibly as part of honoring God with their resources.

THE IMPACT OF SERVING TOGETHER

By involving your children in service and modeling stewardship, you are helping them develop a heart for giving, serving, and managing their blessings well. These habits will stay with them as they grow and remind them of their responsibility to honor God with what they have. Start small, stay consistent, and watch as your children find joy in serving others and giving back to the Lord.

• • • • • FAITH PATH PLAN • • • • •

Child's Name: _____

How will you be intentional about your child's spiritual growth in the coming year?

- ☐ Pray daily *with* and *for* my child.
- ☐ Spend consistent time in God's Word.
- ☐ Offer a daily blessing to my child.
- ☐ Plan regular family time.
- ☐ Create a habit of worship with my child(ren).
- ☐ Schedule time to serve as a family.
- ☐ Other _____

The next step in the Faith Path is Preparing for Adolescence, recommended while your child is between fifth to sixth grade, or whenever you find they are ready for the conversation. As your children begin to mature and enter adolescence, you will see them beginning to mature in their spiritual walk. They will begin to form their spiritual identity.

ADDITIONAL READING RECOMMENDATIONS • • • • •

Financial Peace Kids by Dave Ramsey

Your Kids Can Master Their Money by Ron and Judy Blue, Jeremy White

Ramsey Solutions, 15 Ways To Teach Your Kids About Money,
ramseysolutions.com



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