

TITHES AND OFFERINGS, PART 2

by Douglas Karl

PURPOSE

To encourage young people to be joyful in their giving of tithes and talent.

PREPARATION

Gather Bibles, two chairs for the role play, paper, chalk and chalkboard, or newsprint and felt-tip marker.

Contact two youth to act in the role plays of the reluctant giver and the cheerful giver (see the Opening section).

Select two adults to share personal testimonies about tithing and giving. Be sure their views are in keeping with the church. Have one witness the importance of tithes, needs of the church and personal rewards. Have the other witness on the importance of giving offerings above tithes, the difference of this type of giving, personal rewards and other philosophies and beliefs.

On separate pieces of paper, type out these scripture verses: Leviticus 27:30-33; Deuteronomy 12:6; 14:22; and Nehemiah 10:38-39. Make copies for all participants.

Note: This is the second part of a two-part series.

OPENING

Include an offering in your opening and a prayer that the previous

meeting on this subject will become a guide for the youth in their finances and tithes.

Have the youth present the role plays:

The Reluctant Giver—The first actor sits in a chair in front of the group pretending to be watching television. The second actor knocks on the door. The person inside greets the visitor and they both are seated. They begin to converse, and the visitor says the church is starting a new ministry and asks the other's involvement.

The first actor makes excuses of being too busy. The visitor says, "Well, if you think you're too busy to give of your time, would you consider helping support the ministry financially?"

The first actor makes various excuses about house and boat payments and the cost of bowling two nights a week. Reluctantly, however, the first actor makes a nominal contribution.

The Cheerful Giver—The role play is done just as it was the first time, only the first actor reacts positively when asked to donate time and money. With enthusiasm, the cheerful giver incorporates the teachings of 2 Corinthians 9:7.

THE "MEAT" OF THE MEETING

Discuss the role plays, asking:

- With which giver do you identify?
- Have you ever known someone like the reluctant giver? What were your thoughts toward that person?
- Why do you think some people are reluctant givers?
- Have you ever known someone like the cheerful giver? How did that person make you feel?
- Is tithing your time and talents as valuable as tithing money?
- Read aloud and discuss Matthew 5:42 and Luke 6:38.
- Which giver is more in tune with these scriptures? Why?

Have the two adults from the congregation share their views on tithing and giving. Afterward, allow the youth time to ask questions.

Explain tithing and giving were instituted by God at the time of Moses. The verses typed prior to this session describe tithing at the time of Moses. Distribute the verses and have the young people read them and keep the messages in mind as they discuss the seven statements in the Closing.

RESPONSE (OR CLOSING)

On the left side of the chalkboard or newsprint, number one through seven. Make two columns, one titled "agree" and the other "disagree." After each of the fol-

lowing statements are read, ask for a show of hands for those who agree or disagree and write the responses. Discuss each statement after voting.

- Because love should be spontaneous, we should not be systematic in giving.
- If I am in debt, I should tithe anyway.
- If I disagree with the way the church spends my money, I should withhold my tithe.
- Children, widows, housewives and others with small incomes should not tithe.
- It is bad for me to pay my tithe in one lump sum at the end of the year.
- If I sing in the choir, I don't have to tithe because I'm working for free.
- It's okay to give regularly to special projects and not to tithe.

Have each youth silently think of personal tithes. How can each one give to the church monetarily or in time commitments?

Thank the two adults who gave testimonies and ask them to close with a prayer on the importance of honoring and respecting God with tithes.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Scriptures to Sing, Lillenas, Box 527, Kansas City, MO 64141.