

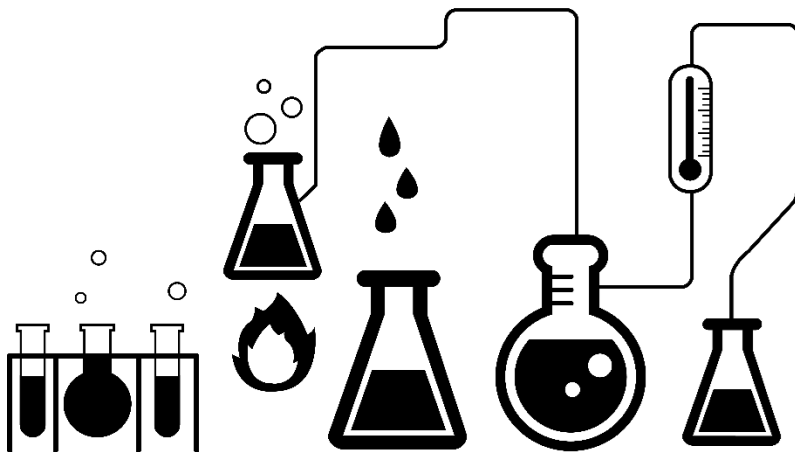
GOD'S BLESSING OF ESTABLISHING THE TITHE AS A "WEEKLY REMINDER"

LEADER'S GUIDE

For Lesson 6

SOW --- first

REAP ----- later



Providing "GOD'S NEW LIFESTYLE OF FINANCIAL FREEDOM"

Thank you for your participation!

This lesson is all about tithing. Tithing brings God's special blessings to you as an individual.

Tithing brings special blessings to your church.

Tithing will bring blessings to your whole community.

Tithing will assist the Kingdom of God.

If we all did our part by giving 11% God's work would have abundant resources. Jesus said give extra good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over (Luke 6:38), therefore 11%

What a challenge is set before you today!

SESSION 6A TITHING – THE GREAT EXPERIMENT

Lesson 6 is divided into 2 sessions: one week do 6A and the next week do 6B. Session 6A deals with encouragement and vision for those already tithing as part of their regular lifestyle. Session 6B deals with the technical and spiritual principles of tithing 10%, mostly for those learning to tithe and of course a refresher and encouragement for those who already tithe.

How to use this part 6A on TITHING – THE GREAT EXPERIMENT.

There are not pass out materials for this session, instead you should:

Step 1: Make 3 additional copies of this whole session 6A.

Step 2: Share with 3 of your church leaders. Do this separately and individually with each one.

- Have them read it and ask for 2 things; (a) his opinion about it, and (b) how he can help the whole church with this.

Step 3: Next discuss this material in your study group as usual.

Presenting session 6A on tithing THE GREAT EXPERIMENT

The focus is to discover what tithing really is. What is behind tithing? Why does it involve more than just giving 10%?

Together with your group, you as Group Leader need to answer the following question prior to teaching the actual lesson on tithing.

We all know brothers and sisters who have faithfully tithed for years. Are these brothers and sisters lives overflowing with blessings? (as in Mal. 3:10b) !!! If not, there is something wrong somewhere!!!

This is a vital question that **cries** for an answer. By and large spiritual joy and physical happiness connected with tithing has been **lost!!!** Pastors, church leaders, members--all need to lovingly confront this issue.

God promised that if you tithe, HE would abundantly bless – **more** than we have room for.

But often it does not seem true. Tithers seem to have room for many more blessings. Is it because we ask the wrong question relating to physical items? Did Malachi mean spiritual blessings? Is God NOT honoring His Word? Is the Bible NOT trustworthy? Or might members be at fault; or perhaps church leaders have not grasped the fullness of what tithing really means and involves? Could there be other reasons why tithers are **NOT overflowing** with blessings – and crying out “*Lord, enough is enough*”.

Would it have to do with a subtle subconscious greed – something like, “We have 1 car but want 2” or “We have 4 children but wish to have 8?” No perhaps it is NOT a ‘greed’ connection.

Could it be that for many years in many churches tithing has been practiced faithfully by members and church leadership but the other 19 BIBLE principles as outlined in FF lesson 1 page 4 have been neglected? Must we surmise that for most people, most churches, tithing has just become a *mechanical* activity! Something we good believers simply do? Has such tithing lost any connection with honoring and focusing on God?

Let us turn to the New Testament for a better understanding of what tithing really entails. Then with a fuller understanding of this very crucial church issue let us discover how church leaders can/should teach tithing and how members can tithe in fresh, new joyful ways.

You might want to take a new look at the Biblical reminder of how God’s blessings come.

It might be best to review the Bible verses from God’s blessings through our Financial Freedom found in Deut. 8:11, 17-18.

Note that Deuteronomy begins with “*Beware that you forget NOT*”. Forgetting NOT means **remember**. TITHING then needs to be restored to a prayerful, worshipful event and relationship with God your Father at the center of your finances. As a child of God each one should experience a unique blessing — and then share that blessing with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and the whole body of Christ. And- – – ?

One pastor discovered and expressed the great new possibility and privilege of tithing in the following little motto: “Pray, Listen, Obey.” His church is now flooded with generosity. Pray (ask God), Listen (what does your inner voice tell you), Obey, (follow the inspiration of the Holy Spirit)

The following part could be printed as a pass-out lesson part.

This is exactly the **GREAT EXPERIMENT**. (*Believing, seeing, cheerfully experiencing God*)

Perhaps such an experiment is of even more importance/value for already tithing believers than for just newly beginning ones.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON RESTORING THE JOY OF TITHING

For all practical purposes, Deut. 28:1-14 has been lost. It is even thought not applicable for today. To some then, it might as well be deleted from Scripture. But Jesus did not think so Mat 5:18.

Your people look to you for an answer to the question in John 6:28 (What must we do to do the works God requires?)

What does God want in 2 Cor. 9:7? (Does HE want your money/tithe?) He wants your cheerful relationship!

So, let us consider one another to provoke unto love (*which is joy*) and (*out of that*) to good works: Heb. 10:24

Let our people also learn to maintain (joyful relationship), that good works be not unfruitful. Tit. 3:14

Abraham gave Lot first choice, Abraham gave up his son, and Abraham tithed – all because of his active faith relationship with God. John 8:39. Rahab hid spies because of active faith!

The leader / teacher / pastor's job is to create cheerful, joyful tithing so that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Tim.3:17

THIS GREAT EXPERIMENT – Tithing is an Experiment of Faith; not as giving 10%.

This is also an item that church leaders should at least **twice** annually uphold before their membership. (*Believing, seeing, cheerfully experiencing God*)

It well to note that giving is a weekly activity. Biblically however tithing is NOT necessarily weekly; it may be annually, quarterly, or monthly depending on one's lifestyle and system of income.

Some references on TITHING but missing the RELATIONSHIP

Mat 7:22, 23 -- "Many will say to me Lord, have we not in thy name done many wonderful works? Jesus will say I never knew you." The relationship is missing and all is ruined.

Mat 23:2, 3 -- Jesus said the Pharisees did a lot of 'good works' but they lost the relationship part. Note the tragic results.

Rev 2:2, 19; 3:1, 2, 8, 15 -- All indicate "good works" done apart from a cheerful / joyful relationship with God.

Jer. 7:13, 14 -- "You have done all these works, says the LORD, and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not; Therefore will I 'destroy'" (for reference see Jer. 7:11)

Jer. 48:7 -- "for because thou hast trusted in thy works."

Psa. 106:39, 40 -- "Thus were they defiled with their own works. Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance."

Isa 64:6 -- "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;"

Isa 41:29 -- "Behold, they are all vanity; their works are nothing"

Isa 59:6 -- "neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works are works of iniquity,"

Neh. 9:35 -- "For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gave them, and in the large and fat land which thou gave before them, neither turned they from their wicked works."

Job 34:25 "Therefore he knows their works, and he overturns them in the night, so that they are destroyed."

The lack of a cheerful, joyful relationship brings tragic results

Some references on RELATIONSHIP and the blessing of doing it

Prov. 16:3 -- "Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established."

Isa 64:5 -- "You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways."

Psa. 17:4 -- "Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer."

Psa. 119:27 -- "Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works."

Psa. 143:5 – “I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.”

Psa. 145:4,5,10 – “One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. I will speak of the glorious honor of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.... All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee.”

The regular, daily cheerful, joyful relationship with Jesus brings abundant fruitfulness. “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord and He delights in his way.” Psalm 17:23

“You will keep in PERFECT PEACE him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you” Isaiah 26:3

PEACE is the big measurement / contentment – Peace in the family, peace with your job, peace with material things, peace spiritually, peace financially, peace with your health, peace with your station in life.

Rephrase the peace statement with contentment. Then the only question left would be “What else do I want?”

SESSION 6B TITHING – THE GREAT EXPERIMENT

Lesson 6 is divided into 2 sessions: Last week you led a general discussion per 6A and this week you will do 6B. Session 6B deals with the technical and spiritual principles of tithing 10%, mostly for those learning to tithe and of course a refresher and encouragement for those who already tithe. 6B follows the regular procedure as shown below.

THE LEADER'S HOME PREPARATION

This is a very critical lesson in the whole series. It is really important that you examine your own heart. If you have not been tithing up to this point, are you ready personally to take this leap of faith in your life? To enter into the “great experiment” of proving God’s promises. If you are not, please spend extra time praying honestly before the Lord. So often we want to know the Lord’s will, but when something is written plainly in Scripture, we rebel against doing it. And then we wonder why the Lord does not show us His will. He has! He is often waiting on us to do what He has plainly written so that He can lead us on in other areas.

If you are not ready to personally take this step, then you need to be aware that your group will sense your hesitations. Can you present the lesson objectively? If not, you may be standing in the way of people who would like to grow in faith. Lay your case before the Lord.

There are 6 steps you should take during your lesson preparation:

- 1) **Pray** much before you prepare a new lesson.

Remove, Heavenly Father, any barriers and opposition to fulfilling your desire. Prevent any attacks, criticism, or negative attitudes. Let anything that is of doubt, negative, or anti Scripture be silenced. Give me and my people Your faith! Amen

- 2) **Get** thoroughly acquainted with the Lesson Guide
- 3) **Read** the introduction to various lesson parts several times.
- 4) **Discuss** the material with a spouse or friend
- 5) **Answer** all questions yourself on paper.
- 6) **Pray**

Lord God, your desire is for us to put you first. Give faith to each member of my group to step out in faith and “prove” God’s promises. Giving 11% is only a small step but greatly influences Your church. Help me to wholeheartedly lead and take this step of faith. Oh bountiful Lord, move in all of our hearts that we may reap a mighty harvest for You.

LESSON PRESENTATION

TOTAL anticipated lesson time is 2 hours and 18 minutes

Begin with testimonies!

You the leader want to know how God was using Lesson 5 at people’s homes.

Testimonies bring God into the middle of group. This IS our focus throughout all of our lessons

PRAYER TIME –

Giving Thanks that the Holy Spirit is still active, and that He wants to guide us in this great experiment of giving 10%.

This lesson has 8 parts.

Each participant must have a lesson and a pen.

You may give additional lesson copies upon request.

At the close pass out Lesson 7

DISCUSSIONS, BRAINSTORMING, DISAGREEMENTS

Often there is a difference between God's ways and ours – see Isa 55:9 and often this difference results in ardent discussions.

This is exactly what you desire. Several such discussions will not solve an issue or provide an answer because the answer is to be discovered in later lessons. Do not stifle discussions. As people interact they will share their discoveries later at home with family members, thus expanding your results and influence into practical applications.

REMEMBER: God's view is **always** different from our natural understanding.

LESSON GUIDE

Tithing is intended to train people to put God first in their lives. It brings perspective. It reminds us that all we are and all we have is from God. It is not giving God a “tip” but a physical expression of our dependence on Him and our gratitude to Him. Tithing requires calculation. When we deal specifically with the amounts God has provided, we assess God's goodness to us. We literally count our blessings, thanking Him for His generosity.

Should I tithe if I am in debt? On which amounts am I responsible to tithe? And where is the tithe to be given? Answers to these questions are succinctly presented in this session as well as several key insights into the intent of God's heart for the tithe. After all, everyone eventually does pay a tithe--either to the Lord or to the devourer! Truly God reserves a significant blessing for those who return to Him the first-fruits and make the commitment to prove His ways trustworthy. (See Malachi 3:8-11.) Be encouraged as we study this age old challenge which motivates believers to once again find God faithful in this area of tithing.

The more you give, the more comes back to you, because God is the greatest giver in the universe, and He won't let you outgive Him. Go ahead and try. See what happens.

Randy Alcorn

1. ESTABLISH THE TITHE AS A WEEKLY REMINDER TO SERVE AND ENJOY GOD RATHER THAN MONEY

pp. 1–2 > 10 min <

CORNELIUS – A man whose generosity was greatly rewarded by God

Follow Cornelius' example! Cover each of these 3 opening Bible verses with one question for the group.

Cornelius gave to God (Acts 10:1-2)

What additional generosity can you add to imitate Cornelius?

The Great Experiment (Mal. 3:8-10) (see also Deut. 28:1-14)

Will a man rob God? Ask your group “*what is the deepest basic reason that underlies the rejection of tithing?*”

(It is a lack of faith – in general we find it hard to believe that God will take care of us, let alone abundantly reward us.)

God gave to Cornelius (Acts 10:4-6)

What is the most difficult part for you in believing that God wants to give you victory? (i.e. He wants to bless you with a whole new lifestyle of Financial Freedom?)

2. HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TITHING?

p. 3 > 15 min < PERSONAL EVALUATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters, tithing is a physical love token of our heart's gratitude.

Did you discover your heart's gratitude? Did you discover God's wonderful generosity to us?

Did you discover what tithing is really all about?

A lot of bad information has circulated among our brothers and sisters. Many of our members think very negatively about tithing. Is God really greedy? Is God really deceitful? Tithing is a weekly reminder for us about God's wonderful generosity to us.

Let us look at the Answers:

1. False 2. False 3. False 4. True 5. True 6. False 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. True
12. True 13. False 14. False 15. False 16. False 17. False 18. False

Have each write down their total score of correct answers.

Ask for any questions or misunderstandings of the questions.

EVALUATION SCORE – share the **4** evaluation categories.

Provide jokes, camaraderie, laugh a lot. Focus on helping people identify with the group and a desire to explore together.

My friends, how much do you know about the experiment of tithing?

Who has 18-17 correct answers – raise your hands – Smart! You are *VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE*.

Who has 16-14 correct answers – raise your hands – Great! *KNOWLEDGEABLE*

Who has 13-9 correct answers – raise your hands – *TOLERABLE*.

If you have 8-4 correct answers – do NOT raise your hands – *CONFUSED*.

If you have 3-0 correct answers – do NOT raise your hands – *VERY CONFUSED*.

I will now repeat the **4** Evaluation Scores so you can copy these **4** categories in your notes.

EVALUATION SCORE:

18-17 correct = Very knowledgeable

16-14 correct = Knowledgeable

13-9 correct = Tolerable

8-4 correct = Confused

3-0 correct = Very confused

3. KNOW WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT FAITH AND GENEROSITY

pp. 4–6 > 50 min <

Cover each of these 10 points by reading them and discussing them thoroughly.

NOTE: Do not be satisfied with a rote answer as written in the lesson. (It is easy to just say, „yes, of course we should,“ but disagree in your heart!)

Each time ask if they really agree. Why or why not?

Ask: Who has another opinion? Who has some additional thoughts?

4. THE CONSEQUENCES OF ROBBING GOD

p. 6 > 8 min <

Have different people each read a paragraph from this page.

Ask for any contemporary stories.

5. THE GREAT EXPERIMENT – purpose not to rob God

pp. 7–8 > 15 min <

THIS IS THE PERSONAL PRAYER PART OF THIS LESSON.

This is a very private prayer time!!!

Have the group disperse – (outside, to other rooms, in separated parts of the auditorium, etc. During their prayer time they should (under the guidance of the Holy Spirit) fill mark their points of surrender / dedication. The whole issue here is to let God become the manager of your life.

These questions of their past serve only as an analysis. Based upon past mistakes of ignorance, what new steps / decisions need to be made now? (Not only indicate a past 'fact', but answer "what now".

Ask people to **kneel down** and pray.

Give the group 10 minutes for prayer, meditation and decision.

Call the group together and read the Personal Commitment together.

Signature – Personal Commitment to Serve God Rather Than Money

This is step 6. Five preliminary steps / lessons have been covered to prepare us for "The Great Experiment". Here is "The Great Faith Experiment" – Joining God and His ways of doing things by giving 10%. This is a great opportunity to step out on faith!

Your signature indicates you joined. And as a partner with God you can now expect supernatural happenings in your life.

Future lessons deal with how God blesses us and brings us financial freedom and with it a whole new lifestyle.

6. CHILDREN WHAT WOULD YOU TITHE?

p. 9 > 10 min < Basic Quiz Number 6

Ask for testimonies about this home activity. Ask for the reaction of the children.

Answers: 1. 2 grv. 2. None. Return to owner. 3. None 4. At least 1000 5. 3 grv. 6. 400 grv

If anyone is uncertain about an answer, discuss together what the principle behind it is.

7. HOW DID GOD HONOR THOSE WHO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

p. 10 > 15 min < Advanced Quiz Number 6

Have people share their answers to these 7 questions.

Ask if there are any questions or comments.

In order to make any corrections share the answers as follows:

1. Abraham **B** 2. Solomon **G** 3. Jacob **E** 4. Cornelius **A** 5. David **C** 6. Barnabas **F** 7. Noah **D**

Now ask several individuals: Which of the 7 points was most valuable to you; and WHY?

8. CAN YOU MATCH TITHING AND SCRIPTURAL TESTIMONIES?

p. 11 > 15 min < Comprehensive Quiz Number 6

Ask people to share their answers to these 10 questions.

Ask if there are any questions or comments.

After that share the answers as needed:

1. Abraham 2. Barnabas 3. Cornelius 4. Paul 5. Abraham 6. Jacob 7. Zacchaeus 8. Abraham
9. Paul 10. Cornelius

Ask: Which of the 10 points was most valuable to you; and WHY?

Then for each point ask one or more individuals to supply a modern home town example

What practical application do see here for next 6 months in your life?

Tithing was originally meant by God to be something beautiful. An expression of gratitude. A praise act to glorify God. An opportunity to keep God first in our lives. Do not criticize those who lag behind, or only nominally follow. If people do not make a commitment to tithe from their heart, rather than from pressure to be a “better” believer, they will not follow through and will feel guilty or else justify themselves. This is NOT progress. We need people who love Jesus Christ enough to trust what He says and act on it. So lead with discernment.

Distribute Lesson # 7 and request that this lesson be read at home and that they fill out the questionnaires, except the Comprehensive Quiz. Show them page 13 and state: “We will do this Comprehensive Quiz Number 7 in the class. So you do not have to fill it out at home.”

Close in prayer –

Dear God and Father You have laid before us a very great experiment. We are strongly determined to move away from a carnal Christian lifestyle. You created us – we want more of You!

Jesus, You know that we will fail and fumble sometimes. Thank you that you have mercy upon us. We need your cleansing power! Holy Spirit, deliver us from evil, and lead us in your paths of righteousness. We claim Matthew 6:33! Hallelujah to your Holy Name, Amen.

Contact Information for God’s Blessing of Financial Freedom

General info, Training, follow-up, help – Vera Lavrinenko – 096 254 33 24

Orders for paper materials – lessons, guides, posters, magnets, banners – Ivanka Dubenchuk – 096 103 98 77

For electronic materials on FF Website <http://svoboda.sytes.net> – Ivan Onishuk