

"Imagine that you're spending the day with your your dad. He takes you to your favorite ice cream shop and orders you a huuuuuge banana split! Three scoops of ice cream, three different sauces, whip cream and sprinkles! Mmmmmm. He doesn't get anything for himself, though - he's just feeling extra generous. So you're sitting there enjoying your giant banana split, and he says...

"Can I have a bite?"

What do you say?

"NO WAY! GET YOUR OWN!!"

Would you say that? Probably not. After all, he bought it for you... Would you let him have a bite? Yeah, I bet you would, and you'd do it cheerfully wouldn't you - because you know he was generous with you - you want to be generous with him too.

Tithing is a little like sharing your banana split with God. He was so generous to give you so much. All He's asking for is one bite...

Other Resources for Teaching Your Children About Money

Financial Peace, Jr. by Dave Ramsey
(Audio CD) Available at amazon.com and daveramsey.com

Money Doesn't Grow On Trees by Neale S. Godfrey
(Book) Available at amazon.com, or check your local library. (Note, this is not written from a Christian perspective, and so does not cover the importance of tithing, but it does offer suggestions for introducing allowance, and also helps you identify your own financial "personality" as well as your child's, in an effort to work with your natural tendencies.)

MoneyInstructor.com has free articles for both teaching your kids and for growing in your own money management skills.



KIDS GROWING SPIRITUALLY

GIVING



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How We Teach Tithing and Offering to Kids

We recognize that everything we have come from God. The shoes we have come from God - because God gave mom or dad the time to work the job He gave them, that earned the money to buy the shoes. By the same token, the toys, clothes, games, food, and home we have all come from God as well. The money we have also come from - you guessed it - God, because He gave it to our parents who gave it to us.

The Bible teaches us that we can give God our best by giving Him our tithe - one tenth of the money we earn or receive - with a cheerful attitude (2 Corinthians 9:7). God also asks us to give beyond our tithe, which we call an "offering", to help those in need.

Our NEXT generation Kids Ministry encourages kids to give a tithe and offering because it's an important part of obeying God, no matter how little our tithe actually is. (It's much easier to build this habit at an early age, than try to squeeze it in as an adult.)

How We Use the Tithe and Offering

It's hard for kids to get excited about paying an electric bill in the name of spreading the Gospel, so we use the tithes and offerings collected from our kids to support a seven year old little boy in Mali, named Diadie. Our tithe goes to showing Diadie God's love by making sure he has clean water, nourishing food, an education, and someone to tell him about God's love for him. We send \$35 each month through World Vision to support Diadie.



Learning About Giving from the Bible

2 Corinthians 9 - Paul instructed the Corinthian church on the matter of a collection that would go to support the believers in Jerusalem. His instructions help us understand how God views giving and generosity.

Genesis 4 - Cain and Abel each gave God a gift... But who gave his best to God?

Malachi 3 - God promises us a blessing if we are obedient in giving tithes and offerings.

Mark 12:41-44 - Jesus makes it clear that it's not about how much we give, it's about our attitude.

TEACH AT HOME

You are your child's strongest influence, so don't forget to model and teach giving at home!

MODELING GIVING

Talk to your child about why you tithe. Let them see you write your tithe check or prepare your giving envelope regularly. Tell them how God has blessed you for your obedience. Work as a family to give a special offering to other causes as well, and talk to them about the different needs that people around the world have.

HELP THEM TITHE



Don't just give them money to put in the offering. Help them get excited about giving their own money - the money God has entrusted to them! If you

give your child an allowance, help them set aside their tithe right away (and give them their allowance with the right change, so they don't have to work too hard to set aside 10%). Having a special place for them to store their tithe - four small coin banks (or jars), "tithe, save, spend, offering" - is a great way to help them learn to manage their money early.

DON'T LEAVE OUT OFFERING

Offering is given for special needs - like supporting a missionary or a special cause. Some offerings might be given to church projects, other offerings might go to reputable organizations like World Vision or Union Gospel Mission. These make for fun family projects!