

Tithing and Teenagers

Dear Parent,

We want to be the biggest support you have in raising your child for Christ. We would be honored to help you along the journey, encourage you, and lift you up as you fulfill one of the biggest callings on your life. We're here for you not only when things are going great, but also when you have questions, concerns, and fears. We love you and want to help you be the best parent for your children!

We'd like to help you teach your children about giving to God what is rightfully His. It's called tithing. It's about giving to God the first portion of what He's given to you and allowing Him to provide for your needs out of His providence. It's a simple concept, but one of the toughest to live out. We can understand that this is a tricky thing to get your child excited about, so we'd like to help you teach this concept with confidence.

The Bible is clear about giving to God the first 10% of your finances. Whether it's your paycheck, allowance, or lawn mowing money, God wants you to give Him the first portion. He wants you to do that as an act of worship - an act of submitting to God and depending on Him to provide for your needs. It's about allowing God to have first place in your life and actively engage in His desire to sustain and provide.

The best way you can help your child understand and live out the principle of tithing is to do it yourself. Allow your child to see you put your tithe into the offering at church. Ask them to write out the check. Ask them to take the offering forward. Engage them through your example and actions.

We'd like to help you on our end as well. We will be giving an opportunity to tithe during every FUSION program and Sunday School Class on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings. We'll have a student pass a basket around and ask students to give generously to God and watch Him take care of their needs in huge ways. We want to help you instill this concept into the hearts of your children.

Here's a few Bible passages that explain the concept of tithing:

Malachi 3:8-10 2 Corinthians 9:7 Proverbs 3:9 Luke 21:1-4

Here's a few web articles that can help you even further:

Christianity Today's Article on Tithing and Allowance:
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/iyf/advice/faithqa/11.9.html>

ClassicalU's Article on Tithing and Teenagers - a good article, but takes a few minutes to read:
<http://classicalu.com/forum/topics/caleb-hartman-teenage-tithing>

Dave Ramsey's Home Page - Great resources for tithing and financial principles:
<http://www.Daveramsey.com>

Thanks for taking your child's relationship with God seriously and allowing us to help you raise your child for Jesus Christ. If you have any questions, please give us a call!

In Christ,

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BETHANY STUDENT MINISTRIES