

## **PLANNED GIVING WEEK 1: TREASURE HUNT! (Jesus and Tithing)**

**We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. Winston Churchill.**

**THE AIM:** The aim of today's session is to introduce the idea of giving to the young people. The scriptural references for this session are Matthew 23:23 and Mark 12:41-44. Remember to look at the idea that we aren't just following the Law, but that tithing can be a meaningful part of being a disciple and engaging with God.

**INTRO:** Leaders, welcome and settle your group. For this week's session you need: an orange (or tennis ball), Corps Cadets Books, Bibles and pens.

Money, money, money! A lot of our life is spent thinking about money – how much we have or don't have, how to get it or what to spend it on. Jesus also talked and taught a lot about money. Today we are looking at some of the things Jesus said about money and what it means for us as His followers...

**PLAY:** Have a go at the 'Pass the Orange' GAME...

**Leaders, the group has to pass the orange around the circle, only holding the orange between the bicep and the forearm. See if you can get around the group without dropping the orange!**

Was it hard to give the orange to other players?

Do you think that giving people things is hard in general? Why? Why not?

**TEACH:** Volunteer to read this info aloud...

The term 'tithe' means one-tenth, and often refers to a ten percent contribution to a religious group. Once, tithes were often given in food and animals, but today tithes are usually paid in money. In the times of Jesus, the Hebrews tithed to the temple in obedience to the Law, following many rules as to how they gave.

**DRAW:** Sketch a picture of your piggy bank (extra points if you include wings on it)...

**READ:** Look up Matthew 23:23 & Mark 12:41-44...

"What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things." Matthew 23:23.

Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins.

Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on." Mark 12:41-44.

**TALK:** Discuss these questions...

Advertising often focuses heavily on youth to try and get them to buy the latest products, but in these scriptures Jesus is asking us to give money away. Discuss.

What would your friends think of the idea of giving some of your money away?

Does your family regularly give money to charity or the church? Why? Why not?

How do you personally feel about giving money to God? How do you think this is relevant to your faith and life?

**GOOGLE: For those with smart-phones, quickly Google and share with the group...**

- **Tithing**
- **Jesus & Giving**

**THE POINT: In our world, we are often told that young people spend much of their money on themselves. However, Jesus teaches us that we must give to God in big ways. As followers of Jesus we must remember to give to God, but also remember the matters of faith, mercy and justice...**

**BTW:** In these scriptures, Jesus is critical of those who tithe too much as well as those who tithe too little. Confused much? You see, where the Pharisees tithed on the spices in their kitchen, the rich often tithed just ten percent of their wealth. Both were missing the point. Jesus does not want us to give in small ways, just following the rules, but to offer to God the things we truly value...

**WRITE: Answer these questions...**

Think about it. As a follower of Jesus, why is it important to give some of your money to God?

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Get specific. What kind of giving is Jesus asking us for?

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Be practical. How would giving some of your money to God make a difference in your life?

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Choose a time and place. When and where in your routine are there opportunities for you to give (and live) generously?

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Make it personal. Who do you know that can help you with this?

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**PRAY: Leader to close in prayer with Corps Cadets: consult group on their personal prayer points for the upcoming week. Also remind Corps Cadet group about the current memory verse.**

**ACT: Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is...**

- **Take your written answers and try some out this week.**
- **Find a way to try and give something to God this week.**
- **Discuss how the ACT task went with your Corps Cadets group next week.**

**If you want to know more...**

**Read:** Pick up Matthew 19:16-30 to check out the story of the Rich Young Ruler.

**Watch:** Check out *Pay It Forward*, 2000 (rated M).

**Question:** Ask your Corps Officers about giving and how it relates to the Mission Intention Making Disciples.

**Research:** Read Chapter XI, Section 3 from the *Orders and Regulations*

**Memory Verse:** “Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”  
**Matthew 6:21.**