PLANNED GIVING WEEK 2: BREAKING THE LAW! (The Law and Tithing)

"The true worth of a man, is not measured by what he does for himself but / what he does for someone else"

Lyrics from Right/Wrong, DMX.

THE AIM: The aim of today's session is to explore what the Old Testament Law says about tithing. The scriptural references for this session are Leviticus 27:30, Numbers 18:21 & Deuteronomy 14: 28-29. Remember to look at how our tithe is not just part of the Law, but something that goes towards the work of God and to helping the poor.

INTRO: Leaders, welcome and settle your group. Discuss with your group what they learnt last week: if they attempted last week's 'ACT' task and how they are doing with the current memory verse. For this week's session you need: Corps Cadets Books, Bibles and pens.

Jesus said "It's better to give than receive" and giving a part of our income has been a part of what the people of God do since the very beginning. In fact, the Law of the Old Testament gave several rules as to how much we give and where it should go. So in this session we will look at the Law and what it means to tithe as a follower of Jesus.

PLAY: Have a go at the 'Gifts for the Journey' GAME...

Leaders, players imagine that they are going on a long journey and need supplies. They then pair up and offer one of their possessions to the other person to help them on their journey. Then they find another person to share with, telling them what they got from their last partner. Do this 4 times. The person who can remember what they were given by everyone wins.

What was it like to pretend to give away your possessions? Would it be hard to give up your things to help someone else?

TEACH: Volunteer to read this info aloud...

The Law of the Old Testament instructed the Hebrew people to tithe in different ways. Tithing had begun as a way to feed Aaron and his sons who performed the priestly duties in the wilderness (Exodus 29:27). The first tithe was then instructed as a way of providing for later Levite priests, who accepted it on God's behalf (Numbers 18:21 & 24). There was a second tithe, as well as a poor tithe, which occurred on different years (Deuteronomy 14:22-29).

DRAW: Sketch a picture of the Israelites bringing their gifts for Aaron and the poor (extra points if you include a llama)...

READ: Look up Leviticus 27:30, Numbers 18:21 & Deuteronomy 14: 28 & 29...

"One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy." Leviticus 27:30.

'As for the tribe of Levi, your relatives, I will compensate them for their service in the Tabernacle. Instead of an allotment of land, I will give them the tithes from the entire land of Israel.' Numbers 18:21.

"At the end of every third year, bring the entire tithe of that year's harvest and store it in the nearest town. Give it to the Levites, who will receive no allotment of land among you, as well as to the foreigners living among you, the orphans, and the widows in your towns, so they can eat and be satisfied. Then the Lord your God will bless you in all your work." Deuteronomy 14:28 & 29.

TALK: Discuss these questions...

People in our society say that they have the right to do what they want with their money, but in this passage Gods is commanding the people to give a percentage away. Discuss.

What do your friends think of giving money to the poor? Do they do it often?

What do you think The Salvation Army does with the donations it receives?

How do you personally feel about giving money to the church and to the poor? 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 in the Old Testament
- Tithe for the poor

THE POINT: In our world, young people can often be critical of giving money to religious organisations. However, scripture teaches us that we must give some of what we have to God. As followers of Jesus, tithing can be a great way to give to God, as well as supporting ministers and their work with the poor...

BTW: The Law offers us great teaching on tithing, though as followers of Jesus we don't follow the priestly system or live under the Law (Romans 7:4). While we can use the teachings of tithing here, we will mainly focus on the words of Jesus and the practice of the early Church as we continue...

WRITE: Answer these questions...

Think about it.	As a follower	of Jesus, v	why is it ir	nportant to	give mo	ney for the	Church's	work?	Why
not?									

Get specific. What does The Salvation Army do with the money people give to it?

Be practical. How would the money you give make a difference?

Choose a time and place. When and where could you give to help the work of the God?

Make it personal. Who do you know who will commit to giving with you?

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 money to God and the poor.

- Discuss how the ACT task went with your Corps Cadets group next week.

If you want to know more...

Read: Pick up James 2 to read about what James says about giving.

Watch: Check out Brewster's Millions, 1985 (PG).

Question: Ask your Corps Officers about giving to the poor and how it relates to the Mission

Intention Caring for People.

Research: Look up the fifth 'I will' from *The Articles of War, Soldier's Covenant*.

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