

**A tenth of everything:-
A study on tithing.**

Warm Up

Many people feel resentful about being confronted by tin rattling charity workers in the street. Others feel guilty. Why might this be so? How do you feel about giving to charity or good causes?

Background and context

The Old Testament has a lot to say about tithing, giving 10% to God. It pre-dates the Laws of Moses and is also integral to them. The purpose of tithing was to keep the focus on God by sustaining the worship life of Israel, but also to provide opportunity for celebration of holy days as well as provide for the poor. However, the New Testament does not mention tithing. It takes a different approach to giving. The early church was generous and gave as was needed. It was more of a response to God's generosity to them.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Leviticus 27:30-33, Numbers 18:21-24, Deuteronomy 14:22-26 and Deuteronomy 26:12-15. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. Having read the four passages above, what is your initial reaction to tithes? Why did God demand them?
2. **Read Leviticus 27:30-33.** How is the tithe described? Who is it for?
3. **Read Numbers 18:21-24.** Who received the tithe? What was their function? Why did they receive it? Can we relate this to modern life?
4. **Read Deuteronomy 14:22-24.** How does the purpose of this tithe differ from the one mentioned in Numbers 18? Who benefited from the tithe? What does it suggest about what God desires for us? How should we interpret this today?
5. **Read Deuteronomy 26:12-15.** What does this teach us about God's heart?
6. Review the purpose of the tithes. How does God want us to live?
7. **Read Malachi 3:8-10.** What was the issue with Israel and tithing? What was God's response?
8. Tithing was part of the Mosaic law. As Christians we are not under the law, (Romans 6:14) What does this mean for us in regard to tithing?
9. **Read 2 Corinthians 8:7-8.** What does this mean for us in terms of giving or tithing? What should our attitude be?
10. What did Jesus sacrifice for you? What would be an appropriate response to His love?

Discipleship and Application



11. Why does God want us to give to Him? He gave us everything in the first place.
12. It is not about % but about the (+) cross. What is your motivation for giving?
13. What is our purpose and mission as 'The Church'? How do we make that a reality?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.