

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 13

Tithing

Scripture: Genesis 27 and 28

Objects to have:

A large cut-out figure of a boy or a girl
A “pocket” to put on the boy or the girl
Some “coins” that could be placed in the pocket of the boy or the girl
Ten coins of actual money, all the same denomination
A lunch sack
Chalk and chalkboard
Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Hold up the figure of the boy or girl.) We have a friend with us this morning. I’m glad that he is with us in Sunday school. He has come to teach us the lesson today. Let’s give him a pocket. (Tape that to the shirt or skirt of the figure.) Something is going to go inside the pocket later on.

Right now, though, look at these coins. (Name them—pennies, dimes, etc.) They are all alike; they are all worth the same amount of money. I have ten of them. (Tell the children how you got them—you earned them on the job, somebody gave them to you, etc.)

Jesus says in the Bible that everybody who loves Jesus is supposed to tithe. Say that word *tithe* with me: tithe. To tithe is to give to Jesus one-tenth of all that you get. Let’s count my coins: one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. Ten coins. I’m supposed to give one-tenth of all that I receive to Jesus. I am to give Jesus one of these coins. Jesus commands that I do this. Do you know what? I want to give this coin to Jesus. Jesus loves me, and I love Him. I want to show Him that I love Him. I will give this coin to Jesus. I’m going to put it in a separate place away from the other nine coins so that I will remember to take it to church. (Put it into a different pocket from the other nine coins or, lady teachers, put it into a separate part of your purse to demonstrate to the children that it is consecrated or “set apart” as the tithe.) I am going to drop it into the offering plate as a tithe.

Telling the story:

Somebody in the Old Testament of the Bible promised God that he would give the tithe. Before he made that promise, he had a long, long journey to take. It was Jacob who had to go away, and Jacob was afraid to take this journey. Jacob’s brother had threatened to kill him. Jacob’s brother was very angry because Jacob had tricked him. Jacob was hurrying away from home to get away from his brother, Esau. Jacob’s mother and father knew that he had left home. They knew of the quarrel between Jacob and Esau. Jacob had to go away—all alone. Jacob was going to his uncle’s house.

When Jacob started down the road away from home, I think that maybe he hurried as fast as he could go. Esau might come after Jacob!

Jacob walked and walked and walked. Now, it’s kind of sad to be alone for a long time. It’s nice sometimes to play by yourself for a while, but sometimes it’s more fun to have somebody to play with you. Jacob did not have anybody with him. He was alone.

The morning time passed. Maybe he began to wonder what was going on at home. “Mother is doing the breakfast dishes and cleaning up the kitchen. Maybe she is starting to wash the clothes and is making the beds. Little children are playing and laughing outside. Dad has gone from home to his work. Pretty soon it will be lunch time. I’m getting hungry.”

I think that Jacob sat down and opened the lunch (open your lunch sack) that his mother had packed for him. It looked good. He took out the sandwich, unwrapped it, and started to eat it; but somehow the first bite was almost more than he could chew. Sitting there all alone, maybe tears started to come down Jacob’s cheeks. He was so lonely! There wasn’t anybody around! He wasn’t hungry, he decided. Maybe later on he would be hungry. (Close up the lunch sack.)

Jacob started walking again. His uncle’s house was a long way away from home. He knew that he was going in the right direction because he was following an old road that many people had followed, but nobody walked with him. Jacob thought about home. At home, in the afternoon, lunch was over and the afternoon work was being done. Maybe mother just about had the washing done and pretty soon she would stop and rest awhile before starting to cook supper. “I wonder what there will be for supper at home tonight.”

Jacob had so far to go to his uncle’s house that he knew he would not get there before nighttime. When it would get to be night, he would have to find some place to stop and sleep. Outside where he was, there was no nice bed with clean sheets and blankets and a pillow. All that was outside was the ground and some rocks. Jacob chose a place to sleep. He got some stones and put them together to make a pillow. He lay down on the ground and rested his head on the stones.

In the darkness, lying there before he went to sleep, Jacob might have been afraid. I also wonder if he might have cried a little bit for his home. He might have thought of his room at home and thought of the family being settled down for the night. Jacob fell asleep.

While Jacob slept, he had a dream. It was a strange and wonderful dream! God gave him the dream. Jacob saw a ladder. (Draw a simple ladder on the chalkboard while talking.) He saw the ladder set up on the earth. It wasn’t leaning against a house or a wall. It was just a ladder standing on the earth. Jacob looked at the bottom of the ladder, and he looked up, up, up to see the top of the ladder. He could not see the top of the ladder, however, for it was too tall. The ladder stretched all the way from earth to Heaven. Then he saw something running up and down the ladder. Who were they? They are not people, and people will never become what they are. They’re angels. Angels were going up and down the ladder. Jacob saw God’s special messengers.

Then Jacob heard a voice speaking to him from the top of the ladder. “I am God, Jacob. I was with your grandfather, Abraham, and with your father, Isaac. Now I will be with you. I will watch over you. I will protect you. I will see that you arrive safely into the country where you are going. I will also bring you back to this place, and I will give this country to you and to your family. I will never leave you, Jacob.”

What a wonderful, glorious dream! Jacob woke up. He rubbed his eyes and saw the plain countryside that he had seen last night before going to sleep, but God had given him a dream! Jacob got up and prayed. Then Jacob made a promise. He said, “If God will surely do for me what He has said He would do, I will always give Him one-tenth of all that I receive. The tithe will belong to Him.”

God never breaks His promises! If Jacob kept his promise from that day on, he always gave God one-tenth of all that God gave to him.

Let’s look at our friend. His pocket is still empty, isn’t it? Well, he is going to go to Sunday school. Mom or Dad gave him some offering to take to Sunday school. (Put the coins in the pocket.) Here he is at Sunday school. It is time to put money into the offering. He will reach into his pocket for the offering. He will take it all out. Whatever Mom or Dad has given to put into the offering goes into the offering in Sunday school. Sometimes we get money presents, or we earn some money for a job we’ve done. We divide up that money and give God one-

tenth; we can keep nine-tenths for ourselves. Big people should be sure to divide up the money that they get so that one-tenth of it will be given back to God. We'll all be glad that we tithed!

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Malachi 3:10, "*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse....*"