

TITHING

Objects to have: A large picture of a boy or a girl. A "pocket" to put on the boy or the girl. Some "coins" that could be placed in the same pocket of the boy or girl. Ten coins of actual money, all in the same denomination. A lunch sack. Your Bible.

Introduction to the lesson: We have a friend with us this morning. (Hold up the large picture of the boy or girl.) I am glad that he is with us in Sunday School. He has come to teach us a lesson today; look at his pocket. (Put down the picture of the child) Now, look at these coins. (Name them, telling the Children whether they are pennies or dimes, etc.) They are all alike; they are all worth the same amount of money. (Count the Coins and have the children, count with you. I have ten coins. (Tell the Children how you got this money whether you earned it, or somebody gave it 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 one-tenth of all that you get to Jesus. How many coins do I have? Yes, I have ten coins. I am supposed to give a tithe or 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, so I will give one-tenth of what I receive to Jesus.

Now, I am pretending that I am at home; I am not in church yet. It is not time, therefore, to give my one-tenth or my tithe in the offering plate. So, I am going to put this one coin in a place by itself away from the nine other coins. That is so that I won't spend it; I will leave it in a separate place in my room or my drawer until it is time to go to Sunday School and then I can put that one-tenth in the Sunday School offering. I put it into a different pocket from the nine other coins. I will put it in the offering plate when I go to church, as my tithe.

The Lesson: Somebody in the Old Testament of the Bible promised God that he would give the tithe. Before that somebody made that promise, he had a long, long journey to take. Jacob was that man. Jacob was afraid to take this journey. His brother had threatened to kill him. Jacob's brother was very angry because Jacob had tricked him. So, 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, and that Jacob had to go all alone.

When Jacob started down the road away from home, I think that maybe he hurried as fast as he could go. Esau knew that Jacob was going away from home, but what if Esau should start after Jacob!

Jacob walked and walked and walked. It's kind of sad to be alone for a long time It's nice sometimes to play all by yourself for awhile, but sometimes it's more fun to have someone 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. Pretty soon it will be lunch time. I am getting hungry."

I think that Jacob sat down and opened the lunch that his mother made for him. (Pick up your lunch sack, and open it.) It looked good. He took out the sandwich and started to eat it, but somehow the first bite was more than he could chew. Sitting there all alone, maybe tears started to come down Jacob's cheeks. He was so lonesome!

There wasn't anybody around that he knew. This neighborhood was not the one where he lived. Nothing looked like home. He wasn't hungry, he decided. Maybe later on he would be hungry. (Put the sandwich back into the sack.)

Jacob started walking again. His uncle's house was a long way from home. He knew that he was going the right way because he was following an old road that many people had followed, but nobody walked with him.

Jacob had so far to go to his uncle's house that he knew he would not get there before night time? 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, just the cold ground and some rocks. Jacob chose a place to sleep. The Bible tells us that he used a rock for a pillow. He lay down on the ground and rested.

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. Jacob looked at the bottom of the ladder and kept looking up, up, up to see the top of the ladder. He could not see the top of the ladder for it was too tall. The ladder stretched all the way from the earth to Heaven. then he saw something running up and down the ladder. Who were they? They were God's special messengers. They were not people, though. They were angels. Angels were going up and down the ladder.

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 your father Isaac. I will be with you. I will watch over you and protect you. I will see that you arrive safely in the country where you are going and will one day bring you back to this place, and give this country to you and your family. I will never leave you, Jacob."

Then Jacob woke up. God had talked to him and given him this wonderful dream'. Jacob thought about the dream, and he thought about God's promise to him. Jacob wanted to make a promise to God. He got up from the ground that had been his bed and kneeled by his pillow of rocks. Jacob prayed and made a promise to God. Jacob 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. Jacob should never break his promise to God.

Let's look at our friend. (Pick up the figure of the boy or girl.) His pocket is still empty, isn't it? Well, since he was going to go to Sunday School Mom and Dad gave him some money to put in the offering. (Put the coins in the pocket.) It is time for the offering; he will reach into his pocket and take it all out. Whatever you earn for the jobs or chores that you do, or whatever you get in gifts of money, always figure out how much belongs to Jesus. Ask someone to help you. Whenever mom or dad says, "This is money for Sunday School offering," always give all that money to Jesus.

Big people should be sure to divide up the money that they earn or that they get in gifts, so that one-tenth of it will be given back to God. Children should also give one-tenth, a tithe, of the money they earn or that someone gives them to Jesus in the offering. We'll all be glad that we have done right about giving the money that we should give to Jesus.

Jesus is not here in His body waiting to receive the offering we give Him. Jesus said that it is giving to Him when we give to others by bringing our money in Sunday School and Church. Some of the money pays for the buildings and everything in them; some of it goes to help poor and hungry people. Some of the money goes to

missionaries who have gone around the world to tell other people about Jesus. It is all Jesus' work, so when we put our money into the offerings we are giving the money to Jesus.