

# TITHE:

## AN INVENTION OF THE CHURCH?

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*Tithe: An Invention of the Church?*



**GOD FIRST**  
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

**Tithe: An Invention of the Church?**

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## Group Activity

# Tithe: An Invention of the Church?

**Purpose:** To develop values related to worship, tithing, the proportional system of giving.

### **Summary of the activities (for facilitators):**

- Divide the audience into groups.
- Each group will discuss their assigned questions.
- Call on one representative of each group to share the group's discussed conclusions.

### **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Watch the video with all participants. (The video is available here: <https://youtu.be/IQhW4Pt8tdE>)
2. Divide participants into groups of 5-10 persons.
3. Assign one or more questions to each group (each group should have a different question).
4. **Leader and secretary:** Each group will choose a **leader**, who will conduct the discussion, and a **secretary**, who will write the conclusions, and make a report when called upon.
5. **Group Opinion:** In case of open questions (no right or wrong answers), the group should discuss which opinion(s) would better express the thought of the entire Group (not only that of the leader).
6. **Duration:** The group should spend no more than five (5) minutes on each question, and secretaries must take no more than one (1) minute when asked to answer publicly.
7. **Growing Together:** After the appointed time for the discussion is over, the facilitator will call all secretaries to the front, and ask them to read the conclusions given by their groups. Each secretary will have one minute to read each answer.
8. The facilitator may make comments after each response.

# Growing Together

Before discussing the questions, all participants must have watched the video, “The Origin of Tithe,” available here: (<https://youtu.be/IQhW4Pt8tdE>)



1. Why do you believe Abraham paid the tithe when there were no churches or formal ministry to be supported?

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2. Under what circumstances did Jacob become a tither (Gen. 28:18-22): as an employed or unemployed worker? How would you respond to a Christian friend who believes that she cannot become a tither because she is unemployed person?

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3. Why do you think that God specified a percentage instead of an amount, to be returned as tithe?

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4. What do you think Solomon meant by “firstfruits” when he said that we should “honor the Lord ... with the **firstfruits** of all your increase” (Prov. 3:9, bold provided)?

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5. Anthony is not sure if he should tithe from the gross or the net. How would your group help him to decide, based on Solomon's advice (Prov. 3:9)?

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6. Martha is a newly baptized member, coming in from another denomination. She says that those who present the promise found in Prov. 3:9 as still being valid and literal, are Prosperity Theology promoters. How would your group help her understand this verse?

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7. Both tithe and the Sabbath are holy.

a. What, do you believe, are other similarities between these two institutions?

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b. In your opinion, what intentions of God are common to those two institutions?

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8. Armando, an Adventist entrepreneur, felt a compelling call from the Holy Spirit to be faithful in tithing. But He was quite frustrated when he heard that the tithe should be precisely ten percent. However, because he has never kept adequate track of his earnings, he is,

therefore, uncertain how to calculate his tithe. Some church leaders have encouraged him to do an estimate of his tithe based on what he can remember. What would you suggest to him?

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# THE TRUTH ABOUT TITHE



*The Truth About Tithe*



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## Group Activity

# The Truth About Tithe

**Purpose:** To develop values and practices related to tithing, to the Storehouse Principle and to the use of the tithe; to show that the tithing practice was not removed in the New Testament era; to develop values in conflict resolution.

### Summary of the activities (for facilitators):

- Divide the audience into groups.
- Each group will discuss their assigned questions.
- Call on one representative of each group to share the group's discussed conclusions.

### **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Watch the video with all participants. (The video is available here: [https://youtu.be/B\\_F18hKMzq8](https://youtu.be/B_F18hKMzq8))
2. Divide participants into groups of 5-10 persons.
3. Assign one or more questions to each group (each group should have a different question).
4. **Leader and secretary:** Each group will choose a **leader**, who will conduct the discussion, and a **secretary**, who will write the conclusions, and make a report when called upon.
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8. The facilitator may make comments after each response.

# Growing Together

Before discussing the questions, all participants must have watched the video, “The Tithe About Tithe,” available here: ([https://youtu.be/B\\_F18hKMzq8](https://youtu.be/B_F18hKMzq8))



1. Mariana found out that one of her neighbors, a single mother, lost her job and is no longer able to provide for her children. Mariana used her tithe to help the neighbor. The following Sabbath, she was trying to get more church members to help that neighbor, suggesting that they use their tithe to help that needy person. What would you do if you were a church leader?

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2. A well-known supporting ministry develops new missionary and educative projects in an impoverished country, and they’ve launched a campaign asking for financial support. Carlos is suggesting to some church members, including you, to use part of their tithe to support this missionary project? What will you do?

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3. Your church, in a very big city, is undergoing renovations, in anticipation of establishing a Center of Influence, a project worth millions of dollars. Facing substantial financial

challenges, the church's treasurer suggests that you do what, according to him, others are already doing: temporarily diverting their tithe, using it to support the renovation project. What suggestions would you give him to help increase the amounts given toward the church's budget without accepting tithes?

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4. What do you believe was the rationale behind God specifying, in a very detailed way, the [1] percentage of the tithe, [2] where to deliver it, and [3] how God's people should use those funds?

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# JESUS AND THE TITHE



Jesus and the tithe



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## Group Activity

# Jesus and the Tithe

**Purpose:** To develop values related to conflict resolution, the use of the tithe, and the proportional system of giving.

### Summary of the activities (for facilitators):

- Divide the audience into groups.
- Each group will discuss their assigned questions.
- Call on one representative of each group to share the group's discussed conclusions.

### **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Watch the video with all participants. (The video is available here: <https://youtu.be/fFirQp1T6lc>).
2. Divide participants into groups of 5-10 persons.
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8. The facilitator may make comments after each response.

# Growing Together

Before discussing the questions, all participants must have watched the video, “Jesus and the Tithe,” available here: (<https://youtu.be/GhkUQyQanCo>)



1. Robert, a faithful Adventist entrepreneur, values and promotes Adventist Education. Besides having all his children studying at the Adventist School, he is using part of his tithe to support poor theology students and is encouraging other members to do the same. “After all,” he says, “those students will become pastors and will later be supported by the same tithe!” As a church leader, what would you do and say? (Does your answer have any biblical support?)

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2. Sharon, a very conservative member, does not agree with some decisions of the leaders of her Conference, whom she describes as “liberals.” How would you respond to her questions about where else she may send her tithe? (Is your answer supported by the Bible?)

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3. Andre is distraught that his many requests to receive a visit from his church’s pastor have

gone unanswered. As a result, he's decided to send his tithe to an ADRA project in the Peruvian Amazon. Based on the Bible, what would you counsel him to do?

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4. Gustav, a very influent and wealthy member of your church is publicly promoting the idea that the tithe is an Old Testament's institution that no longer needs to be observed in the New Testament era.

a. Using your Bible, how would you respond to Gustav's reasoning?

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- b. If you were a church leader, what would be the best thing to do? Would you confront Gustav publicly? Would it be best to remain silent in order to avoid the risk of conflict? Using biblical principles of conflict resolution, how could you help him grow?

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