

Famous Givers Part 3 Celebrating Victory with a Tithe!

Message to Conversation Guide

Key Passages

Genesis 14:17-20

17 After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem **brought out bread and wine**. He was priest of God Most High, 19 and **he blessed Abram**, saying,

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High,

Creator of heaven and earth.

20 And blessed be God Most High,

who delivered your enemies into your hand."

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. NIV

Genesis 28:10-22

10 Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. 11 When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. 12 He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. 14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. 15 **I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."**

16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." 17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven." 18 Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. 19 He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, **"If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear 21 so that I return safely to my father's house, then the Lord will be my God 22 and this stone**

that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth." NIV

Discussion Questions

1. Abraham was the first person to coin the word "tithe" and he holds the distinction of the first person to "tithe" in recorded history. According to the verses below in Hebrews who did he tithe to? Who is this person or who does he represent?

Heb 7:1-5

*7 This **Melchizedek** was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, 2 and **Abraham gave him a tenth of everything.** First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." 3 Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, **like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.***

*4 Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham **gave him a tenth** of the plunder! NIV*

2. The first tithe happened after a great battle in which God helped Abraham to win and to survive. What is the significance of the occasion of when Abraham tithed?
3. Discuss this principle: *tithing is an occasion of celebrating God blessing you and getting you through the tough patches of life.*
4. In the story of Jacob fleeing from Esau Jacob's future is uncertain. Uncertain futures can make us nervous and cause us stress. God promises to take care of Jacob and in return Jacob says "if you do that" I will give you a tenth. Discuss the significance of Jacob's promise to God.

Genesis 14:20-22

*20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "**If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear** 21 so that I return safely to my father's house, then the Lord will be my God 22 and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth." NIV*

5. Sometimes tithing is portrayed as looking forward and hoping God will bless us. In the stories of Abraham and Jacob tithing looked back to God's faithfulness. Think about and share sometimes that you have been able to look back at God's faithfulness to take care of you.