

TITHE:

AN INVENTION OF THE CHURCH?



GOD FIRST
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

Tithe: An Invention of the Church?

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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?

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?

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

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)?

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)?

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?

7. Both tithe and the Sabbath are holy.

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

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

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,



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