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LEARNING BY EXPERIENCE

How do we help children and youth develop wise management of their resources, and invite God to be involved in their financial life while they are still young? Ellen G. White suggests that (1) parents and teachers should make the study of figures something practical very early in children's lives; (2) children should learn through practice how to rightly use money, "whether supplied by their parents or by their own earnings"; children should "learn to select and purchase their own clothing, their books and other necessities; and by [3] keeping an account of their expenses, they will learn, as they could learn in no other way, the value and the use of money" (see *Education*, p. 238).

This practice, if "rightly directed," says God's messenger, "will encourage habits of benevolence" and "will aid the youth in learning to give, not from the mere impulse of the moment, as their feelings are stirred, but regularly, and systematically" (*Ibid.*), as God is giving to them. Actually, the returning of tithe and the giving of Promise is an important exercise that connects children and young people to God every time they receive something from Him. God is then remembered by them as the Source of every

blessing.

Are your children learning how to handle money in a practical way? Are they instructed to keep an account of their expenses? Are they learning how to live a simple life in order to save and then provide for the needy? Are they being educated to put God first, by returning His tithe and their Promise, before any other expense may be met? Do they have their own tithe envelope and encouraged to use it every time they have an income?

Children are a God-given treasure loaned to parents in trust. The Lord requires parents to teach them how to trust in Him and connect with Him, including in their financial life.

APPEAL: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart," says Solomon, "and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (*Prov.* 3:5, 6).

PRAYER: Lord, help us to trust in You, as the Provider and Maintainer of life, and teach our children to experience it themselves as well! Amen.