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Dear heavenly Father, we worship You this morning with our tithe and offerings. We pray for the courage to put You first in our lives. In the name of Jesus, amen.

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NOVEMBER 6, 2021

## Abraham put God First

Abraham decided to put God first in his life. What can we learn from his story today that will help us put God first in our own lives?

Abraham is a wealthy Maasai in Tanzania. This African tribe is well known for their cattle. There is nothing more precious to the Maasai than their cattle. It is common for a Maasai to mourn the death of a bull louder and longer than the loss of a family member. After all, the value of a bull is more than US\$1000.

When Abraham learned of the love of Jesus through Adventist World Radio, he decided to put God first in his life, despite the consequences. That's when he gave 100 cows as tithe to the Lord.

His neighbours and friends could not understand it. They were certain he had gone mad.

Immediately after Abraham returned the tithe of 100 cows, something unusual happened to his cattle. His cows started giving birth to twins. Cows usually give birth to only one calf at a time, but all of Abraham's cows began to give birth to twins. Abraham had given away 100 cows, and now he had more cows than before.

His neighbours were shocked. "Call your pastor, I

also want to give a tithe," one neighbour said. "We want our cows to have twins, too," said another.

Abraham marvelled over the way God was blessing him and decided he didn't want to return just one tithe. He wanted to give two tithes. He called the Adventist pastor to come for a visit.

Abraham took the visitors to his field and began to count out two tithes.

"One, two, three, four, five," Abraham counted the cows in his herd. "Six, seven, eight, nine." When he reached the 10th cow, he instructed a helper to put a tag on its ear so that cow would be set aside for tithe.

"That one is for the Lord," he said. Then he counted an 11th cow and told his helper to tag its ear too. This would be his second tithe. Then he started counting from "one" again.

*Abraham put God first despite the opinions of his friends and neighbours. His courage inspires us today. Jesus gave up everything to redeem us and His love compels us to put His kingdom first in our own lives. As the deacons collect the tithe and offerings, we are challenged to put God first.*