

**Elementary and Preschool**  
Week 4: The Great Robbery

**Lesson Overview:**

**Scripture:** Malachi 3:7-12

**Key Passage to Memorize:** “Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this way,' says the Lord of Armies. 'See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure.” Malachi 3:10 *Preschoolers will memorize the underlined portion, while elementary-aged children will memorize the whole passage above.*

**Main Point:** We should obey God and give our tithe, trusting Him to provide.

**What is a tithe?** A tithe is the money we give to God at church. It is 1/10 or 10%.

**Lesson time: 60 Minutes**

Ice Breaker: 10 minutes while students arrive.

Introduction: 10 minutes to get students' attention and to introduce the topic.

Bible Reading: 5 minutes, read verses from the Bible and explain how to find them.

Application Activity: 10 minutes

Review and Pray: 15 minutes

Closing Activity: 10 minutes

**Items Needed:**

Ice Breaker: *Week 4 Coloring Sheet* and crayons.

Introductory Activity: Nothing is needed.

Application Activity: Elementary- *Finding a tenth (elementary version) activity page* and one pencil per child. Playdough and playdough tools if time allows.

Preschool- *Finding a tenth (preschool version) activity page*. Playdough and playdough tools.

Review and Pray: Elementary- *Reflection page for week one sheet*, pencil, and crayons—preschool-letter *tracing activity sheet* one per child, playdough, and dab-and-dot markers.

Closing Activity: Elementary- *Code Breaker activity page* and one pencil per child. Preschool- *Balloon Bop activity sheets* (one per group), one filled balloon.

**Ice Breaker-10 minutes:** *Designed to get kids ready to learn, create a welcoming atmosphere, get their attention, and allow them to focus while others arrive. The icebreaker activity begins when your classroom opens, not when class officially starts. Do this activity as the children arrive.*

- Before children arrive, put out the *Week 4 Giving Coloring Sheet* (elementary and preschool) at each seat and some crayons in the center of each table.
- As children arrive, greet them and ask them to find a spot at each table. Then, have them choose a place to sit and begin coloring their coloring sheet.

After about 5-6 minutes of coloring, say: **We should give to God. We can give our time, money, and talents to serve Him.** Let kids continue to color and welcome new arrivers. Walk around and admire each child's work.

Say: **You all did a great job working on your coloring sheet. Today we are learning that we should obey God and give our tithe, trusting Him to provide.**

Ask: **What is a tithe?** A tithe is the money we give to God at church. It is 1/10 or 10%.

Say: **We should obey God and give our tithe, trusting Him to provide.**

**Introduction- 10 minutes:** *The introduction is designed to lay the foundation for what you teach and where you will be in scripture.*

Say: (Elementary and Preschool) We are playing four corners. Assign each corner of the room a number from 1-4. Show your class which corner is assigned which number.

**Explain: In four corners, the caller closes their eyes, and everyone wanders from corner to corner around the room. Finally, the caller will say time! After that, everyone must go to the corner of their choice and stay there. Then the caller will call out a number from 1-4, and the people in the corner whose number was called must sit down in the middle of the room. They are out, but assure them you will play twice so they can play again. Go until you have one child left who has not gotten out.**

- Facilitate gameplay for as long as children are interested. Try to play at least two rounds so those out in the first round can try again.
- After the game, have everyone return to the rug or table to discuss the game.

**Explain: Today, we played four corners. It was so fun; we divided our class into parts and tried to figure out what part of our group would get called first! Today we are learning that we should obey God and give our tithe, trusting Him to provide. The tithe is the first part of what we have and earn; it is what we give to God. The Old Testament explains that a tithe is the money we give to God when we give at church. It is a tenth or 10%.**

For Preschool, say: **Let's read from the Bible, God's special book, and see what it says about how we should give to God.**

For Elementary-age kids, **Let's look at God's Word, the Bible, and see what it says about how we should give to God.**

### **Bible Reading- 5 minutes:**

Hold your Bible and say: **This is God's special book, the Bible. When we read from it, we get to hear what God is saying to us. Today we are reading from 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. The Bible is divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament has 39 books, and the New Testament has 27 books. The Bible is made up of 66 books that tell one big story about how Jesus came to save people. Malachi is the last book in the Old Testament. The prophet Malachi is calling God's people back into obedience.**

Find Malachi in your Bible, and explain how 3 is the chapter. It is the big number, and after you find the big 3, you read the verse. The verses are the sentences after the little 7. Ask elementary-aged kids to get their Bibles out and find the passage (help them as needed) and have them follow along as it is read.

Read Malachi 3:7-12 out loud. If you are teaching elementary-aged kids and someone wants to read out loud, give them that opportunity.

Reread verse 7 and talk about how God's people, the Israelites, had rejected God, which means they had turned away from God. Verses 8 and 9 say they were robbing God and not obeying Him by giving.

Reread verse 10 and talk about how God says they need to bring the full tithe. They need to give to God. We give to God by giving our tenth.

Reread verses 10- 12 and talk about how God promises that if they turn to Him, obey Him, and give, He will rain blessings down on them and meet their needs. They can trust Him.

**Application Activity- 10 minutes:** *Designed to get your kids thinking, moving, and driving the main point home.*

Elementary: Pass out the *elementary, finding a tenth page* and pencils for each child. Explain that today we learned that we should give to God. We should give our tithe, which is 10% or a tenth. Let's explore what a tenth is. Follow the directions on each side of the page and help children identify 10%. As children finish, you can give them playdough and playdough tools to divide the dough into tenths and then play as time allows.

Preschool: Pass out the *preschool finding a tenth page* and playdough and playdough tools for each child. Explain that today we learned that we should give to God. We should give our tithe, which is 10% or a tenth. Let's explore what a tenth is. Follow the directions on each side of the page and help children identify 10%. Do this by having them divide their playdough and put some in each of the ten boxes as children finish; you can allow them to use their playdough to play as time allows.

**Review and Pray- 15 Minutes:** *Designed to review the main point, reflect on the lesson and spend time talking to God.*

Elementary- Pass out *reflection pages for week 4*, pencils, and crayons. Explain that you will do a weekly reflection page to help each child process what you are learning and help them spend a little time talking to God. Explain that they will retell or draw what they learned from God's word today on their paper. Then they will write out or illustrate how what they learn applies to their lives and write or draw a prayer to God. Then, finally, they will use the word bank at the bottom of the page to finish the memory verse.

After everyone has finished their reflection page, gather their pencils and crayons and tell them you will pray together as a group.

**Dear God, thank You for being faithful and always providing. Please help us to obey and be faithful in giving. Thank you for allowing us to give and serve so we can be a part of your work. Please help us to give generously. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Preschool- Give each child a copy of the letter *tracing activity sheet*, a ball of playdough, and dab-and-dot markers (crayons or markers if dab-and-dot markers are unavailable).

Explain that each child will get a sheet of paper and it says God is able! First, have your group trace each letter with their finger, saying it out loud if they can, and then when they finish, have them say, “Give to God!”

Second, have your group take their playdough and form each letter on the page with the playdough, saying the letter out loud if they can, and then when they finish, have them say, “Give to God!”

Third, have your group take their dab-and-dot makers and dot out each letter saying the letter out loud if they can, and then when they finish, have them say, “Give to God!”

You can do this as many times as your group wants to. Then take up the playdough and makers and pray together as a group.

Say: We will talk to God now; that is called praying. God can hear us all the time. Let’s get our bodies ready to pray. Ask: Are you sitting down on the ground? Are your feet still? Are your hands where you can be still and focus on God? Then ask if their eyes are closed so they can focus on God. Then tell them you will pray out loud, and they can talk to God in their head and hearts.

**Dear God, thank You for being faithful and always providing. Please help us to obey and be faithful in giving. Thank you for allowing us to give and serve so we can be a part of your work. Please help us to give generously. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

### **Closing Activity: 5 minutes**

Elementary: Pass out *code breaker pages* and pencils to each child. Explain that they will use the key at the top of the page to write the corresponding letter above the line so they can decode the message.

After they all decode the message, explain that this is part of the verse you will memorize this week. Then, say it together a few times.

Preschool: Play balloon bop. Have your group form a line. Lay out the *Balloon Bop Cards* on the floor in a line. Have each child take turns stepping on each word

of the verse and help them say the verse out loud. They should do this while bopping a balloon in the air. Let each child have a turn while you wait for their grown-ups to pick them up.

“Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house.”

Malachi 3:10

**Send the take-home page with each child. Copy it front and back and cut the sheets into fourths. Each child will take a 1/4<sup>th</sup> sheet home. Please point out the memory verse to their parents.**