

Tithing & Fasting Lesson Outline

Write on Chalkboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can experience an abundant life by living the laws of tithing & fasting.
Prelude Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #218 - <i>We Give Thee But Thine Own</i> • #219 - <i>Because I Have Been Given Much</i>
Opening Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Ask someone in advance)
Preface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guilt is like pain. • Just as pain signals that something is wrong with the body, guilt signals that something is wrong with the spirit. • Both pain and guilt, left untreated, can be debilitating. • I hate leaving lessons feeling full of guilt and hopelessness. • Think of this lesson as a check-up—instead of leaving feeling bad, leave thinking about the very next step you need to take to do better. • If you're already living these principles, think about how you can teach your children or strengthen others to live them.
Attention Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute money from other countries • Ask: <i>What does this represent?</i> • Money can represent our desire to help build the kingdom of God. It can represent our concern for others. And it can represent our faith, obedience, and love for the Lord.
Activate Prior Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheerio Cups - Fasting is (easy/hard) for me because... • Tell about a time when fasting blessed you or someone you know. • Paying tithing is (easy/hard) for me because... • Tell about a time when paying tithing or offerings blessed you or someone you know. • What questions do you have about tithing or fasting? • One strategy that might work for teaching children the value of fasting/tithing/offerings is...

<p>Make Sense</p>	<p>WHAT constitutes an acceptable fast/tithe?</p> <p>Tithing</p> <p>D&C 119:4 And after that, those who have thus been ^atithed shall pay one-tenth of all their interest annually; and this shall be a standing law unto them forever, for my holy priesthood, saith the Lord.</p> <p>President Joseph Fielding Smith of the Quorum of the Twelve explained: “It is remarkable how many excuses can be made and interpretations given as to what constitutes the tenth. ... It is written, however, that as we measure it shall be measured to us again. If we are stingy with the Lord, he may be stingy with us, or in other words, withhold his blessings” (<i>Church History and Modern Revelation</i>, 2 vols. [1953], 2:92).</p> <p>Fasting</p> <p>Quotes from tri-fold brochure</p>
<p>WHY do we fast and pay tithing & offerings?</p>	<p>PURPOSES: Why do we pay tithing/fast?</p> <p>3 Nephi 24:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say: Wherein have we robbed thee? In ^atithes and ^bofferings.</p> <p>9 Ye are cursed with a curse, for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.</p> <p>How does paying tithing affect our relationship with the Lord?</p> <p>What would happen if the Lord gave us blessings with the same liberality with which we pay our tithing? What if he weighed every one of our acts of contrition and obedience to determine its true worth and value to him before he decided to bestow any blessings therefore? (From LDS Living Magazine)</p> <p>Isaiah 58:6 <i>Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the ^abands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go ^bfree, and that ye break every yoke?</i></p> <p>7 <i>Is it not to deal thy bread to the ^ahungry, and that thou bring the ^bpoor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the</i></p>

	<p>naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from^cthine own flesh?</p> <p>D&C 119:6 And I say unto you, if my people observe not this law, to keep it holy, and by this law sanctify the land of Zion unto me, that my statutes and my judgments may be kept thereon, that it may be most holy, behold, verily I say unto you, it shall not be a land of^aZion unto you.</p> <p>2 Corinthians 9:10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for <i>your</i> food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your ^arighteousness;) <p>11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us ^athanksgiving to God.</p> <p>12 For the ^aadministration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;</p> <p>When Jesus fasted, He “communed with God” (Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 4:2c). For us, fasting should be a time of communion with God.</p> <p>When His fasting was over, the Savior resisted Satan’s temptations and “returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee” (Luke 4:2–14; see also Matthew 4:3–11). Through fasting, we can gain spiritual strength.</p> <p>What are some things we can do to prepare to fast? In what ways is our fasting more meaningful when we prepare for it?</p> <p>Why are our attitudes and motivations important when we pay tithes and offerings? (Need, not greed)</p> </p>
<p>HOW are tithing funds used?</p>	
<p>Make Meaning/Encourage Involvement</p>	<p>Quote Cards</p>
<p>Encourage Involvement</p>	<p>Promises Handout</p>
<p>HOW does living the principles of fasting, tithing, & offerings bless us?</p>	<p>D&C 59: 23 But learn that he who doeth the works of ^arighteousness shall receive his ^breward, even ^cpeace in this world, and ^deternal life in the world to come.</p>

24 I, the Lord, have spoken it, and the Spirit beareth record.
Amen

The Lord has promised that he will rebuke the devourer for our sakes. Malachi speaks of the fruits of our ground. May not that rebuke of the devourer apply to various of our personal efforts and concerns? (Elder Gordon b. Hinckley: C.R., April 1982, Priesthood Session)

President Heber J. Grant: "The law of financial prosperity to the Latter-day Saints, under covenant with God, is to be an honest tithe payer, and not to rob the Lord in tithes and offerings. Prosperity comes to those who observe the law of tithing. When I say prosperity I am not thinking of it in terms of dollars and cents alone, although as a rule the Latter-day Saints who are the best tithe payers are the most prosperous men, financially. But what I count as real prosperity, as the one thing of all others that is of great value to every man and woman living, is the growth in a knowledge of God, and in a testimony, and in the power to live the gospel and to inspire our families to do the same. That is prosperity of the truest kind." (Conference Report, Apr 1925)

I have come to understand that the Lord's richest blessings are spiritual, and they often have to do with family, friends, and the gospel. **He often seems to give the blessing of a special sensitivity to the influence and guidance of the Holy Spirit, especially in marriage and family matters like raising children.** Such spiritual sensitivity can help us enjoy the blessings of harmony and peace in the home. President James E. Faust suggested that the payment of tithing is "**an excellent insurance against divorce**" ("*Enriching Your Marriage,*" *Liahona*, Apr. 2007, 5; *Ensign*, Apr. 2007, 7).

The payment of tithing helps us develop a submissive and humble heart and a grateful heart that tends to "confess ... his hand in all things" (D&C 59:21). Tithe-paying fosters in us a generous and forgiving heart and a charitable heart full of the pure love of Christ. We become eager to serve and bless others with an obedient heart, submissive to the Lord's will. Regular tithe payers find their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ strengthened, and they develop a firm, abiding testimony of His gospel and of His Church. None of these blessings are monetary or material in any way, but surely they are the Lord's richest blessings.

<p>Closure</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL NATURE OF THE LAW OF TITHING</p> <p>President Joseph F. Smith expressed the importance of tithing as showing loyalty to the Kingdom of God: By this principle (tithing) the loyalty of the people of this Church shall be put to the test. By this principle it shall be known who is for the kingdom of God and who is against it. By this principle it shall be seen whose hearts are set on doing the will of God and keeping his commandments, thereby sanctifying the land of Zion unto God, and who are opposed to this principle and have cut themselves off from the blessings of Zion. There is a great deal of importance connected with this principle, for by it it shall be known whether we are faithful or unfaithful. In this respect it is as essential as faith in God, as repentance of sin, as baptism for the remission of sin, or as the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. For if a man keep all the law save one point, and he offend in that, he is a transgressor of the law, and he is not entitled to the fulness of the blessings of the gospel of Jesus Christ. But when a man keeps all the law that is revealed, according to his strength, his substance, and his ability, though what he does may be little, it is just as acceptable in the sight of God as if he were able to do a thousand times more.</p> <p>2 Corinthians 9:6 But this <i>I say</i>, He which soweth sparingly shall ^a<u>reap</u> also sparingly; and he which ^b<u>soweth</u> bountifully shall reap also bountifully.</p> <p>7 Every man according as he ^a<u>purposeth</u> in his heart, <i>so let him give</i>; not ^b<u>grudgingly</u>, or of necessity: for God loveth a ^c<u>cheerful</u>^d<u>giver</u>.</p> <p>8 And God <i>is</i> able to make all ^a<u>grace</u> abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all <i>things</i>, may abound to every good work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Matthew 25:40). • Action Plan: Set a personal goal
<p>Closing Prayer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Ask someone in advance)

What is the relationship between tithing and the law of consecration?

D&C 64: 23 Behold, now it is called ^atoday until the ^bcoming of the Son of Man, and verily it is a day of ^csacrifice, and a day for the tithing of my people; for he that is ^dtithed shall not be ^eburned at his coming.