

Kid's Slot – Nov. 20th – 26th, 2011



“God Loves a Cheerful Giver!”

OVERVIEW: Children will learn about the importance of giving their tithe to God.

PREPARATION: You will need several coins, your Bible

VERSE: 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

ICEBREAKER: Ask: What was the largest amount of money you've ever received for your birthday?

READ: “Ben's Choice”

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. What did Ben do to earn his extra spending money? (He raked the leaves of several neighbor's lawns.)
2. How much did Ben earn and how much was his tithe? (He earned \$90 and gave a \$10 tithe...\$1 more than his tithe. Ben was a cheerful giver.)
3. At first, was Ben able to buy the special Wii Bundle that he had hoped to buy? (No, he bought the single Wii game that his best friend and cousin had. He was happy, though. At the end, he was able to return the single game and get the Bundle.)
4. How long had Ben's dad been tithing and what did he learn over the years? (30 years and his dad learned that he couldn't never out-give God.)
5. What was in the envelope taped to the front door and who put it there? (\$20 from the neighbor Marge and Ralph as a Thank You to Ben for doing such a good job.)

Bible Memory Verse: “And God is able to shower all kinds of blessings on you. In all things and at all times you will have everything you need.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: “Tithe = Trust”

You will need several coins. After quoting the Bible Memory Verse several times with the children, show them the coins and say, “Whose pictures appear on these coins?” Have the children name the presidents if they can. Then show them that the coins say “The United States of America,” and explain to them that we should give the government what belongs to it – like paying our taxes. Then show them that the coins also say “In God We Trust.” Tell the children that if we are to give the government what belongs to it, should we not much more give God what is His? When we give God our tithe, we are also giving Him our trust. Take the coins and show the children how much a tenth (tithe of the coins is).

RETURN: Return to the Life Group.

After the children recite their Bible Memory Verse to the adults, have the children share about Ben's story and how God blessed his faithfulness to tithe. The children then join in the prayer and fellowship time.



“Ben’s Choice”

Ben had been working so hard these last several weeks. Now that fall had come, the leaves were...um...falling and Ben figured that he could rake the leaves on a few lawns and earn a few dollars doing it! He went to his computer, and with a little help from his big sister, he made his very first flyer advertising his new “business.” In his neighborhood, there were some older couples that jumped at the idea of Ben raking their lawns! In fact, when the word got out, Ben actually had a waiting list of people who wanted their lawns raked! \$10 a lawn was a good deal and Ben enjoyed the cooler weather, too!

Ben had already earned \$50 and was willing to stop there, but he still had four more lawns he promised he would finish, so he kept on working! He was trying to earn enough money to buy his favorite Wii game and with the \$50 he earned, he could. Both his best friend and his cousin had the game and the only time he could play it was when he went to their houses. Ben was so excited when he had enough money...but with the four extra lawns to rake, he now would have enough money to buy the special Wii Bundle that neither his best friend nor his cousin had yet! Now, that would be great! Ben could hardly wait!

By Saturday afternoon, Ben had finished all four lawns, and he was pooped! But he ran into his house to show his mom and dad his hard earned money! Dad was sitting at the kitchen table writing checks for their family bills.

“Dad...I finally got it! I’ve earned enough money to buy not just the plain ole single Wii game, but I now have enough money to buy the Wii Bundle – of THREE GAMES! When can we go to the Toy Store and pick it up?” Dad was quiet as he concentrated on his check writing. Ben looked down and saw that Dad had made a check out to the church.

“What’s this?” Ben asked. “Why are you writing a check to the church?” Dad explained that he was writing his tithe and spent a few minutes explaining to Ben that a tithe is the 10% you give back to God, from the money he earns. He explained that the Lord always gets the first 10% of whatever he earns and how thankful he is to give back to the Lord out of a grateful heart for all that the Lord has given them!

Ben asked, “What about my work? I earned \$90 raking leaves? Should I give my tithe on what I earned like you are giving your tithe on what *you* earned?”

“Yes, Ben, you certainly do. I’ve been waiting to talk with you about that and this is about as good a time as any. Do you see why we give our tithe? It actually belongs to God and if we don’t give it back to the church, it is like holding back from God what already belongs to Him. God loves it when we cheerfully give back to the church from what we have been blessed. It’s easy when you see it like that.”

“I see now, Dad. The first 10% of what I earn belongs to God...gotcha! I earned \$90 raking leaves so that means \$9 belongs to God. You know what, I’m so grateful for how the Lord has allowed me to earn this money that I’m going to give \$10 instead of \$9, just to say a special Thank You to God.”

“That’s awesome, Ben...I can tell you one thing! I’ve been tithing over 30 years now and I’ve never been able to out-give God! I’m so proud of you, son!”

“Thanks Dad...so can you bring me to the Toy Store now...pleeaasseeeee?” And off they went to the Toy Store!

While there, after counting up his remaining money, Ben realized that after paying his tithe, he didn’t have quite enough for the Wii Bundle like he thought, but he did buy the single game his best friend and his cousin had, and he was very happy!

“Dad...even though I didn’t get the Wii Bundle like I had hoped, I know that giving my tithe was the right thing to do!” Dad agreed! Ben couldn’t wait to get home to try his new game.

When Ben and Dad drove up, there was an envelope taped to the front door...it was from one of the neighbors whose lawn he had raked. Ben opened up the envelope and found a \$20 bill inside....and there was a note.

“Dear Ben, Marge and I want to give you a “tip” to encourage you to keep working hard. There aren’t many 8 year olds we know – not even our fine grandson – who worked as hard as you did for \$10. Take this extra \$20 as our little gift to you! Thanks, Ralph & Marge.”

“Dad...God is true to His word! I gave my \$10 tithe and I was blessed with another \$20! Isn’t that amazing! Dad just smiled and shook his head! “And now I get to give 10% of this \$20! I see what you mean, Dad....you CAN’T out-give God! One more question....

Can you take me back to the Toy Store? It looks like I’ve something to return and something to buy! Now that I have enough money for that Wii Bundle after all AND give my tithe! God is soooo good!”