

parish

# *Tithing: A Leap of Faith!*

*A Three-week Stewardship Program*



*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”*

Malachi 3:10

## *Program Instructions*

## Program Description

**Tithing: A Leap of Faith!** is a 3-week stewardship program that inspires “a leap of faith” to increased giving for a 10–week period following the program ... and beyond. It is designed to foster a higher level of commitment to the Lord. During the three main weeks of the program, it focuses on conveying the importance of our commitment to God through tithing and encourages members to prayerfully consider an increased level of giving (up to a full tithe) for a ten-week period immediately following the program. Then, during those ten weeks, the program continues to reinforce your members’ commitment to increased giving with additional resources that inspire and encourage the faith to give.

This educational and challenging program, based on God’s Word, will help your members take a “leap of faith” in their giving. It will inspire members to give joyfully and generously. For the first time many of your members will tithe, some will surpass the tithe, and others will grow in their giving.

The program is designed to be an integral part of your stewardship plan, but we recommend that it be accompanied by monthly communication and inspiration about stewardship, such as a bulletin or newsletter insert. This will provide a consistent, meaningful stewardship message all year long!

## Program Material Files

The program material files contain all of the resources required to undertake a successful program: newsletter articles, theme essays, bulletin messages and inserts, email messages, lay reader presentations, sermons, children’s messages, letters from the pastor, worship suggestions, giving charts and a commitment form. These materials are available to download from the *Stewardship Resource Center at [www.parishpublishing.org](http://www.parishpublishing.org)*. They are clearly labeled in separate files, making them very easy to use. Simply download the material to your computer in either MS Word or PDF format. You can edit or change any material, as desired, to add the church name/logo or personalize in any way. Print as many copies as you need for your entire congregation!

**Keep your log on information handy:** Username \_\_\_\_\_ Password \_\_\_\_\_

### All resources included:

#### Materials to prepare and follow-up the program:

- ✠ Program Instructions
- ✠ Background photo
- ✠ Clip Art
- ✠ Letter from pastor to announcing the program
- ✠ Letter from pastor to be distributed with a Commitment Form
- ✠ Letter from pastor to those not returning a Commitment Form
- ✠ Letter from pastor to thank members who turned in a Commitment Form
- ✠ Giving Chart
- ✠ Commitment Form

#### Materials to launch the program and for each of the three weeks of the program:

- ✠ Theme essay in both tri-fold and letter formats (*Four essays, for launch and three weeks of the program.*)
- ✠ Newsletter article (*Two articles, for launch and during program.*)
- ✠ Bulletin insert (*Two inserts, for launch and first week of program.*)
- ✠ Bulletin or email message (*Four messages, for launch and three weeks of the program.*)
- ✠ Lay reader message (*Four messages, for launch and three weeks of the program.*)
- ✠ Worship suggestions
- ✠ Bible studies, including Bible study answer guide.
- ✠ Sermon
- ✠ Children’s lesson
- ✠ Sunday School handouts (K-6 and 7-12)

Materials for each week of the ten-week period of increased giving following the program:

- ✠ Newsletter article (*One article for during 10-week period.*)
- ✠ Bulletin insert
- ✠ Bulletin/newsletter/email message
- ✠ Lay reader message (*Seven messages included. Use every other week with two alternates.*)

## Program Instructions and Time Line

### Preparing to launch the program:

1. **Print the theme essays:** *The four essays constitute the themes for the week preceding and three weeks during the program. They are available in both tri-fold and letter formats. If you choose to use the tri-folded format (typically used if you intend to send them in a letter-size envelope), we suggest printing them in advance on heavier-than-normal paper.*

“Honoring God through Tithing”	To be sent with pastor’s letter announcing the program.
“Becoming a Tither”	To be sent or used as bulletin insert for first week.
“10 Reasons Tithing is Relevant Today”	To be sent or used as bulletin insert for second week.
“Going Beyond the Tithe”	To be sent or used as bulletin insert for third week.
2. **Print commitment card.** We suggest printing on card stock, if desired.
3. **Publish the first newsletter article the month before the program:** “Tithing Challenge.”
4. **Identify lay readers for 9 lay-reader messages for week preceding the program, the three weeks during the program and five of the ten weeks during the ten week period following the program.**
5. **Publish bulletin/email message:** “The Trust Test” Place in bulletin or email two weeks preceding program.
6. **Publish clipart:** “Coming Soon: Tithing: A Leap of Faith!” Place illustration in bulletin the two weeks preceding the program.
7. **Send announcement letter from pastor and theme essay:** Mail to members so it is received about a week prior with essay “Honoring God through Tithing.”

### Week prior to launching the program:

1. **Send kick-off letter from pastor with commitment card.**
2. **Lay-reader presentation:** Share “Ten for Ten” with the congregation the Sunday (weekend) preceding the first week of program.
3. **Publish bulletin insert week preceding the program:** “The Joy of Giving”
4. **Publish the second newsletter article the month during the program:** “Giving of our Firstfruits.”
5. **Either make required copies or prepare to email Bible studies.**

### During the three weeks of the program:

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| <b>First Sunday</b>  | Publish bulletin insert “Does God Command Tithing?”<br>Distribute theme essay: “Becoming a Tither.”<br>Publish bulletin/email message “Making Choices that Count.”<br>Use worship suggestions.<br>Lay reader presentation: “To Tithe Is to Trust.”<br>Preach sermon: “Tithing: The First Step in Giving.”<br>Teach children’s message: “Practicing My Stewardship.”<br>Use Sunday School handout.<br>Host Bible study session during week: “Whose Money Is it Anyway?” |
| <b>Second Sunday</b> | Distribute theme essay: “Ten Reasons Tithing Is Relevant Today.”<br>Publish bulletin/email message “The Tither’s Surprises.”   |

Use worship suggestions.  
Lay reader presentation: "Should I Pledge to My Church?"  
Preach sermon: "Tithing: A Lead of Faith."  
Teach children's message: "Love Freely Received, Freely Given."  
Use Sunday School handout.  
Host Bible study session during week: "What Is Tithing?"

**Third Sunday  
(Commitment Sunday)**

Distribute theme essay: "Going Beyond the Tithe."  
Distribute commitment card and giving chart.  
Publish bulletin/email message "Today is Commitment Sunday."  
Use worship suggestions.  
Lay reader presentation: "Tithing."  
Preach sermon: "How to be Rich Toward God."  
Teach children's message: "Defining the Word Rich."  
Use Sunday School handout.  
Host Bible study session during week: "Tithing out of Love and Duty."  
Collect commitment cards.

**During the ten weeks of giving:**

The first Sunday following Commitment Sunday begins the 10-week increased giving period. It is important that your church continually include those members (not by name) who have taken a leap of faith to increase their giving and those who have begun tithing in weekly prayers.

**For each of the ten weeks following Commitment Sunday:**

Publish bulletin inserts.  
Publish newsletter article: "The Gifts of Cain and Abel."  
Publish bulletin/email messages: First week: "Ten for Ten."  
Following weeks: As per order shown.  
Lay reader presentations: Use every other week, as desired, leaving two unused.  
Send letter to members not turning in a commitment form.  
Send letter of thanks to members that have returned a commitment form, encouraging them to maintain their leap of faith beyond the ten week period.

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