



Money and Missions

Purpose: To introduce children to God's view of money and how they can be involved in giving to the global church, specifically through the *Harvest of Hope* Gift Catalog. This is an hour-long lesson.

Materials:

- 3x5 index cards, job labels, educational posters about money (optional), world map(s)
- One *Harvest of Hope* catalog for each student (order at least 2 weeks in advance from www.harvestofhope.org/resources)
- Project list (order form, see attachment) for each student from the *Harvest of Hope* catalog, **pencils**, a few **calculators**
- Project pictures and descriptions to hang with them enlarged from the *Harvest of Hope* catalog
- White poster board flip chart, **easel & markers**
- Page for figuring out tithes

Before kids arrive:

- Have room decorated with a few educational posters decorated for a lesson about money. Buy them or make your own.
- Pictures and project descriptions from the *Harvest of Hope* Gift Catalog from Partners International enlarged and hanging on the wall (optional, see attachment).
- World map showing the 10/40 window hanging up. Go to www.1040window.org for information.
- Make identity cards by printing attachment of jobs and salaries on Avery labels (30 to a page). Print as many labels as you need for the number of children in your program. Attach one label to each 3x5 card, one per student.
- Print one parent letter for each student to take home with a catalog

Introduce **lesson overview** of what we will be doing.

- Learn about money around the world
- Practice tithing
- Learn how to give strategically to meaningful projects

Talk about the current **financial stresses** in our culture. Ask if they have heard about it. Ask how they feel about it. Talk about trust in God (use Psalm 46: 1-3).

What God thinks about money-

- Everything we have is from God and we are caretakers of it.
- He owns the cattle on a thousand hills. That means He has endless resources. (Psalm 50:10)

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- He is Jehovah Jireh- God is our Provider. (Genesis 22:14)
- He loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- We can trust Him no matter what happens with the banks. He is the King on the Throne of Heaven.
- He knows what is happening and He still loves us. He is not biting His fingernails, is He?! Do you think God is worried? He knows the number of hairs on our heads and He surely knows about your family's money situation. Turning to Him in prayer is a great thing to do. He still does miracles.
- We are blessed to be a blessing. (Genesis 12:1-3)
- 10% giving and general giving guidelines in the Bible. (Nehemiah 10)

Teach Giving song:

(see attachment for music)

All that I have belongs to the Lord.

All that I have is His.

May He be pleased with the choices I make,
to share with others for His Kingdom's sake-

That I be more ready to give than to take.

Lord, teach me to give.

Lord, teach me to give.

Divide children into groups of assorted ages according to how many adult leaders there are to lead groups. Encourage the older kids to help the younger ones.

For kids third grade and older (younger ones struggle with this concept), explain **international exchange rates** and how they affect missionaries and Christian work in other countries:

- Give examples of US dollar value vs. Pound and Euro and Yen, etc.
- Explain how the value of money can be gained or lost when converting it to another currency or type of money.
- **How this impacts missions and the Body of Christ around the world:**
 - Explain how people depend on the Lord to provide for them through our giving.
 - Talk about the financial crisis in our country and how people react to something like that...
 - *Decreasing their giving or maybe not giving at all*
 - Ask how they think this would impact those depending on this money.
 - What can we do? *Pray. Be strategic in our giving as we grow up. Think about money God's way.*

Pass out to each student a *Harvest of Hope* catalog, a list of projects from the catalog or **copied order form**, an **identity card**, and a **pencil**.

Have them **figure out their tithe** based on the monthly income on their **identity 3 x 5 card** (see attachment). Show them how to figure out 10% by using 100 pennies, moving the decimal point, etc. Get the kids in each group to help each other. Have students write their tithe on their card in the space provided.

Tell them about the **projects** in the pictures **on the wall**. Tell them they **have to pick** what project they want to give their tithe to support, and they need to **spend it all** without going over. They can cooperate and **combine tithes** with others in their group to give to a bigger project if they want to. They may **pick projects from the catalog** and not on the wall if they want to. Maybe there is some **project that fits their pretend profession**.

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For example a project about cows and they are a dairy farmer. Talk about **giving strategically/carefully** when they give as they grow up.

Say, “Let’s have a project store right in this room. The *Harvest of Hope* projects are on the wall. There are **24 different ones**. Go around either by yourself or in a group and **figure out what you would get** with your money if you really had it to give. Look at your card to see how much you earn in a year, then write down your tithe. Let’s imagine that is how much you plan to use for these projects today.

- If you buy **smaller things**, you might be able to buy **more than one**.
- If you **combine your giving** with someone else, together you could afford a more expensive project.
- Keep in mind that these catalogs are special and cost money to make, so be respectful by not abusing them, so someone else could use it if you don’t want it.”

The **leaders will take their group around the room** and help the kids to understand the projects, one by one. After rotating around and hearing about the projects, they will **sit as a group and make their choices**. If the room is crowded, it will work to sit with your group and talk through the projects with the catalog. The leader should have each student tell why they picked the one they picked.

We will **come back together** as a group and have a **few of the kids share why** they picked the projects they chose. Explain that this was all for fun and to help them learn. But these are real projects. **Have a few kids pray** that the Lord will meet these *Harvest of Hope* needs.

Have them take the *Harvest of Hope* catalog and parent letter (attachment) home. Encourage them to think about maybe picking a project to give to with their family.