

**Date:** 11-11-18

**Theme:** God and Money

**Scripture:** Mark 12: 38-44

**Materials and Preparation:**

- a. Print multiple copies of the Tic-Tac-Toe grid (page 6 below). You'll need: one copy for each student. Each *pair* of students will use one copy of the grid to play the game on; they will use the other copy to obtain (cut out) the "money" they win, so they can keep track of it.
- b. Print several copies of the Tic-Tac-Toe grid for yourself, for two purposes: (1) You need the 5 and 10 dollar bills so you have "money" to pay those students who acquire three squares in any row, column, or diagonal; and (2) you need ten one-dollar bills for use in illustrating the concept of a tithe.
- c. Print one copy of the Xs and Os (see page 7 below) for each pair of students (to be used in playing Money Tic Tac Toe).
- d. Enlist one or two assistants to check the students' math during the game of Money Tic Tac Toe.
- e. Using page 4 below, print a copy of Malachi 3: 8-10 and post it in prominent place. This will be used in the discussion of tithing.
- f. You will need a marker for the white board (or you can use a magic marker and the easel available in the resource room).
- g. The New Revised Standard Version of Mark 12: 38-44 is copied for your convenience on page 5 below; it may be of interest to you as background information.

**Vocabulary Words:** tithe, a tenth, widow

**Objective:** To help students understand biblical teaching with regard to the use of money.

**Opening:** Can anyone recite the Lord's Prayer? (If not, have them repeat the lines, one by one, after you.)

**Activity:** Money Tic Tac Toe

1. Divide the students into pairs and provide each pair of students with two Tic-Tac-Toe grids (the grids can be printed using page 6 below). They will play the game on one of the grids and use the other to cut out the "money" they win.
2. Print several additional copies of the grid for yourself, for two purposes: (a) you need to pay \$10 (in play money) to each student who acquires 3 squares in any row, column, or diagonal and (b) you need ten one-dollar bills for use in illustrating the concept of a tithe.
3. For each pair of students, provide one with a set of Xs and the other with a set of Os (see page 7 below).
4. Students take turns selecting squares and adding up the amount of money in the selected square. If the player adds correctly, he or she gets the bills in that square (i.e., cuts them out of the second copy of the grid) and places an X (or an O, as appropriate) in the square. (Have an additional assistant or two on hand to help check the math.)
5. When a player has acquired 3 squares in any row, column, or diagonal, he or she gets an additional \$10 in play money from the teacher.

6. Play until all squares have been acquired. The winner (per pair) is the student who winds up with the most money.

**Readings:**

Today we are thinking about God and money. How does God want us to use money? During Old Testament times (before Christ), the adults were expected to tithe, that is, give one-tenth of what they earned. This money was used to support the priests in their service to the congregation and to help the poor, widows, and orphans. Many Old Testament verses speak of tithing; here is one:

**Malachi 3: 8-10** (New Revised Standard Version): <sup>8</sup> Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, “How are we robbing you?” In your tithes and offerings! <sup>9</sup> You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! <sup>10</sup> Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.

Following Old Testament principles, Christians still teach the importance of giving money to support the church and to help the poor and needy.

To understand tithing, let’s figure out the tithe on the money you won playing tic tac toe. How do we find a tenth of any amount? Here is an example. (Lay out ten one-dollar bills in play money; lift up one of the bills—this is a tenth or tithe.)

Have each student report his or her winnings from the Money Tic Tac Toe game. List the winnings in one column on the white board and list one-tenth of that amount in a column to the right, like this:

\$10	.....	\$1.00
\$30	.....	\$3.00
\$42	.....	\$4.20
\$68	.....	\$6.80

Total the tithes: This is the money that would be used to support the priests (pastors) and to help the poor and needy.

Tithing is for adults—people who have jobs and make money. *But it’s important for us all to know that God cares about what we do with our money.* Let’s look at something important Jesus said about money. To understand the story, you need to know what a widow is. What is a widow?

Read **Mark 12: 38-44** (*Whirl Story Bible* or *Spark Story Bible*).

The rich man in the story gave a large sum of money; he may well have given a tithe.

1. How much did the poor widow give? Did the widow tithe?
2. What does Jesus say about the widow?

3. What does Jesus say about the rich man?
4. Why does God care about what we do with our money?
5. Does our reason for giving matter to God—the spirit in which we give?
6. Is any gift too small from God's point of view?

**Closing:** Close with a short prayer that God will help us to be generous with the things we have, to share willingly with others.

**Offering:** Have a volunteer provide a report along these lines: “We learned that God cares about what we do with our money. We also learned that no gift is too small if it is given in the right spirit.”

**Malachi 3: 8-10.** <sup>8</sup> Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, “How are we robbing you?” In your tithes and offerings! <sup>9</sup> You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! <sup>10</sup> Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.

**Teachers:** The New Revised Standard Version of today's Bible lesson is copied here for your convenience, as helpful background information. (The NRSV stays closer to the original Greek text than does the *Whirl Story Bible* or *Spark Story Bible*.) I do not recommend having the students read from the NRSV but it may be of interest to you.

**Mark 12: 38-44** (NRSV) <sup>38</sup>As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup>and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup>They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." <sup>41</sup>He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup>A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup>Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup>For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

# Grid: Money Tic Tac Toe



