Introduction

We're in a 9 week series we've titled The Torah. In Jewish tradition, "Torah" is the name of these first five books of the Bible. It's a Hebrew word that means 'teachings' or 'instructions'. Sunday's sermon is on giving our tithe to God. A tithe is the first tenth of every dollar we earn.

Questions for Study

1. Write down your description of someone you see as being generous. What you think makes someone a generous person.

2. What do you think stops someone from being generous? If you struggle with being generous, what are your biggest roadblocks?

3. What does the following chart show us about American's generosity. This chart is based on actual surveys that people completed. It's found in "The Paradox of Generosity, Survey of Consumer Finances 2013."

        Give $0   44.8%
        Give <2% of Income   41.3%
        Give 2-4.99% of Income   9%
        Give 5-9,99% of Income   3.1%
        Give 10%+ of Income   2.7%

4. As well as you're able to remember, write down verses in scripture that deal with giving.

5. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word tithe?

6. If you're on track with 365, you will have completed reading the book of Leviticus this week. In the final verses of Leviticus God commanded the Israelites to tithe. Read Leviticus 17:30-34 and write down everything you learn about tithing. Take special note that the tithe is described as something that's "holy to the Lord."

7. Read Genesis 14:18-20. (It might be even more helpful to read chapters 13 and 14 to see the complete context of this meeting between Abraham and Melchizedek.) Then read Hebrews 7:1-4. How do these two passages of scripture emphasize the importance of tithing?

8. Read Malachi 3:6-12. How does these verses emphasize the importance of tithing to God?

9. How does Mark 12:41-44 and 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 support the following statement? *"Giving God a tenth of every dollar we earn should be our starting point. It's not meant to be our end point."*

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