

## **Fractions & Tithing:**

*Helping students apply fractions to the spiritual discipline of tithing*

### **Procedure:**

Fractions can be a difficult concept for many students to understand. Having practical applications will help them understand the concepts better. Fractions (and also percentages) provide a great opportunity to apply mathematics to God's calling for us to return His tithe to Him.

Using manipulatives have the students build a pile of ten. Then have them remove one from the pile and explain that this is what God expects us to give back to Him. This is a great opportunity to make the connection that it all belongs to God anyway and we are simply acknowledging our surrender to Him of all things. Have them build additional piles of ten and remove one from each pile to add to the tithe pile. They will clearly be able to see that as God gives them increase, the amount they return to Him also increases.

### **Spiritual Application**

Some students will note that fairly soon the pile of tithe to God can get quite large and begin to think that God is expecting an awful lot for us to give that to Him. First, draw their attention to the pile that represents the nine-tenths – nine times as big as the tithe pile – and remind them of how God has blessed. This is also a good time to share a story similar to the following:

*A young man was struggling to make ends meet, yet felt convicted that he should return a tithe to God. He made that commitment and although he was only making \$40 per week, was faithful in tithing \$4 each and every week. God blessed him in his faithfulness and in a few years the man was making \$5,000 week – making his tithe \$500. This, he reasoned, was a lot of money for God to expect to him to give each week, yet he had made the commitment. He sought out his pastor for counsel and after sharing his story with the pastor asked how he could get out of this commitment. The pastor thought for a minute and then shared the following advice with the man. "I see no way for you to go back on your commitment now, however, since you are concerned with giving \$500 each week, maybe you could pray that God would take you income back to the \$40 per week."*

**Author:** Spencer R. Hannah, 2007.