

Harvest Offerings and Tithes

26 “When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you as a special possession and you have conquered it and settled there, **2** put some of the first produce from each crop you harvest into a basket and bring it to the designated place of worship—the place the Lord your God chooses for his name to be honoured. **3** Go to the priest in charge at that time and say to him, ‘With this gift I acknowledge to the Lord your God that I have entered the land he swore to our ancestors he would give us.’ **4** The priest will then take the basket from your hand and set it before the altar of the Lord your God. **5** “You must then say in the presence of the Lord your God, ‘My ancestor Jacob was a wandering Aramean who went to live as a foreigner in Egypt. His family arrived few in number, but in Egypt they became a large and mighty nation. **6** When the Egyptians oppressed and humiliated us by making us their slaves, **7** we cried out to the Lord, the God of our ancestors. He heard our cries and saw our hardship, toil, and oppression. **8** So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and powerful arm, with overwhelming terror, and with miraculous signs and wonders. **9** He brought us to this place and gave us this land flowing with milk and honey! **10** And now, O Lord, I have brought you the first portion of the harvest you have given me from the ground.’ Then place the produce before the Lord your God, and bow to the ground in worship before him. **11** Afterward you may go and celebrate because of all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household. Remember to include the Levites and the foreigners living among you in the celebration.

This passage is about when good things happen.

The good thing, in this case, was a first harvest of the year in Israel. This good thing may not have happened to us, at least not in Israel, but what are some good things that have happened to you?

List? *(Later the Children/Youth might could draw a picture or write a poem of a ‘good thing’ that has happened to you or something they have heard today)*

When this good thing happened, what did God ask the Israelites to do? * Bring a portion of the gift to the Priest/Alter of the Lord

*(The implication of ‘bringing a portion to God’ is to show thanks to God as the provider of the context which allowed them to achieve/receive this good thing)

* Remember the kindness of God in their life - a verbal declaration.

* Worship God? (Song, Prayer,)

Recalling the good things that you had listed above:

1. How might we bring a portion to God?, (Or in Christian service?)
2. What is the God given context that made the good thing happen? *(Encourage everyone to see that the two big headings which are ‘God Given’, from which our ‘Good Things’ arise are ‘Creation’ & ‘Community’ [Community is the place where all virtues grow & where order and institutions of care and education are formed])*
3. Remember the broad kindness of God in your life. *(Recall the aspects of God’s Kindness that allow us to thank God even when we are facing difficulties. Things that remind us of God’s love.)*
4. How might we worship God in the light of God’s role as the provider of good things? *(Be specific in light of your list above)*

Prayer - Lets give thanks to God in prayer for some of the good things we have mentioned.

[& the Children might like to think more about the good things God has given them/us and how they might bring ‘a portion’ to God in worship - What might this involve? (Perhaps write a prayer to Thank God)]