

Fun Family Activities to reinforce the story of The Widow's Offering: Mark 12:28-44

Key Verse:

“You shall love the Lord your God’...[and]...‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”
Mark 12:30-31

The Point:

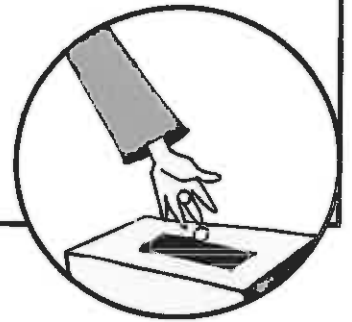
We respond to God’s love and faithfulness by giving our lives to God.

Making Connections:

The Call to Serve

Spiritual Practice:

Service



Making Connections

Jesus has entered Jerusalem in triumph, gone to the temple and cleansed it, and is in continuing conflict with the religious leaders of Jerusalem. While in Jerusalem, Jesus is sitting outside the temple treasury with his disciples, observing people giving to the glory of God when he sees the widow donate her precious coins to the treasury. She gives all that she has as she responds to God’s call.

Story Summary:

The Widow’s Gift

The story of the day will reference the greatest commandment of all—to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Illustrating this story is the widow who gives her few coins to the temple treasury with a faithful spirit of generosity. The temple treasury was a collection of thirteen chests in the temple where worshippers would give money to the glory of God. Jesus and his disciples watched rich men give many coins to the treasury, but it is when Jesus sees the widow offer her few coins that he is most affected. Because of the generous and selfless nature of her gift, Jesus holds her up as an example for us all to follow.

The Point

We respond to God’s love and faithfulness by giving our lives to God.

Just as the widow gave all she could, so too can we give generously of ourselves to God. We can follow the widow’s example and give selflessly and faithfully no matter how our gift compares in relation to the gift of others. This is true not just in terms of monetary gifts, but also in gifts of time and service. This is in reminiscent of a quote often attributed to Mother Teresa, “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

Give It Away - Ages Pre-K and older

Receive and return a gift.

You will need:

- † Small pieces of wrapped candy, granola bars or fruit snacks
- † Bucket
- † Offering Basket

Before Activity:

1. Put candy items in a bucket near the door to a room in your house in order to offer coins to people as they enter the room.

Activity Details:

1. When people enter the room, offer each one the bucket of candy or other items and tell them they can take between one and five pieces. Tell them not to eat anything yet.
2. After everyone has picked out their candy, items pick out just one piece for yourself.
3. Once everyone is in the room, gather together and offer a short prayer of thanks for being together.
4. **Say: It is great to give glory and honor to God! Let us show God that we are thankful by giving an offering in God's name. When you entered this room, you each had an opportunity to take some candy (or other items) from the bucket. We will get to eat some of this later, but for now, let's give a candy offering to God!**
5. Pass around an offering basket and let each student give as much as they choose. Go last, and offer your one piece of candy for the offering basket.
6. **Say: My offering of just one piece of candy sure seems small compared to some of yours! But in some ways, it is the same size, or even maybe a little bit bigger. Do you know why? Allow any answer.**
7. **Say: When we give all that we have to God, we are giving completely and generously, even if the amount of our gift seems small in comparison to others. For example, if one person has only two pieces of candy, and gives them both to God, while another person has two hundred pieces of candy, and also gives two pieces to God, who is giving more? [The first person because they are giving all that they have.]**
8. **Today, in our story a widow does just that—she gives to God quietly, simply, and generously.**

Penny Drops—Ages Pre-K and older

Drop coins into a jar.

You will need:

- † Pennies
- † Jar
- † Chair

Activity Details:

1. **Say: The widow donated her two coins in a simple but meaningful gesture of her love and devotion to God. She might have dropped in her two coins just as we might drop our coins into a jar or basket. Let's practice dropping our coins, taking turns and cheering each other on!**
2. Turn a chair backwards and put a wide-mouthed jar in front of it. Line up in front of the chair.
3. One at a time, ask each person to kneel on the chair and drop their coin into the jar from a set height (such as just above the back of the chair).
4. Encourage those watching to cheer on the coin dropper, encouraging their aim and their confidence.
5. Optional: Challenge some to try dropping in their coins with their eyes shut or blindfolded.
6. After everyone has had a turn, repeats as desired or as time allows.
7. When everyone has taken at least one turn, gather for a short prayer, thanking God for all we are given, and pledging to give our own coins for the glory of God.
8. Optional: If using real coins for the game, when the game is over, the jar of coins may be saved and then offered to the church as a donation from the class.

Magic Penny—Ages Pre-K and older

Sing and dance to this children's song.

You will need:

- † Phone or computer, or way to listen to a song online
- † Optional: instruments

Before class:

1. Search the Internet for the song "Magic Penny."

Activity Details:

1. **Say: We are going to hear a song about the importance of giving things away—especially love. As you hear this song, feel free to sing or dance along.**
2. Play the song and allow children to sing, dance, or play instruments.

Heart Cookies—ages Pre K and older

Illustrate the passage in an edible way.

You will need:

- † Heart-shaped cookies
- † Frosting
- † knives
- † plates

Before class:

1. Bake cookies or purchase unfrosted pre-baked cookies.

Activity Details:

1. **Say: When the widow donated her two coins to the treasury, she was showing her love to God in a very tangible way. We show our love to and for God in many, many ways, and giving coins is one of them. Just as the widow gave to honor God, we can give to honor God as well in our own way.**
2. With heart cookies, use either pre-made purchased frosting or make your own frosting to decorate the heart cookies and then give a heart cookie to each other in order to show and share their love for God.
3. **Say: How does it feel to give something you made to someone else? Did you want to keep the cookie you decorated for yourself? Sometimes it's hard to give something we like to someone else, isn't it? God wants us to share what we have with others in order to honor him.**
4. If possible, share your cookies with a friend or neighbor.

Other Option:

Instead of heart shaped cookies, use round ones and give each child a toothpick after the cookie is frosted and challenge them to make the cookies look like coins.

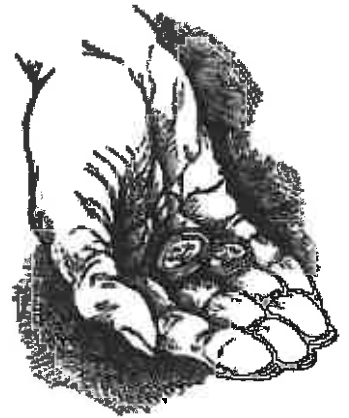


**A poor woman
gives all she has.**
Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4

The Widow's Mite

But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Mark 12:42

Based on Mark 12:38-44



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PENNY	PLACE	TRUTH	DISCIPLES	TEMPLE
JESUS	TREASURY	MONEY	POVERTY	AMOUNT
MORE	WIDOW	COINS	RICH	OFFERING
LARGE	WEALTH	EVERYTHING	COPPER	POOR