

WEEK 5

GIVING

KIDS TAKE HOME SHEET

Theme

GIVING like Jesus

Memory Verse

³ "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. Luke 21:3

Bible Verses

Luke 21:1-4

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. 2 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 3 "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. 4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Big Idea

Why is GIVING like Jesus important?

Dear Parents:

Many of the principles of the Red Letter Challenge are things that will progress as children grow into adulthood: but often kids grasp things even easier than adults do! The giving principle is often something that is often even easier for kids to do than adults! It will amaze you at their generosity, when you give them opportunities to give and share.

We talk about motive for giving, as well as who is the Ultimate Giver, Jesus. Understanding what Jesus has given to us helps us give freely to whoever needs it. We give because we have been given everything.

Not accepting and allowing them to give extravagantly like that stifles something that is so beautiful inside. If during this week they feel prompted to give something that makes you hesitate, that's normal! Let them give! And give freely!

Challenge: ways you can GIVE this week:



Give food to the needy. Ask your parents or an adult if you can help clear out your cupboards or go shopping and collect food for the needy. Find a church or a food pantry in your area to drop off the food to.



Go through closets and empty out drawers of clothes/toys to give away to a neighbor or a local second hand store or women's shelter.



Less Than a Penny

Have the children form pairs. Pair younger children with older children. Give each child a penny. Have the children brainstorm about all the things people can do with pennies. Encourage the children to be creative and think of unusual things to do with the pennies. Kids might come up with ideas such as “collect them” or “use them as game pieces.”

After giving kids a minute to talk, have volunteers share their ideas with the rest of the group.

Then have the pairs talk about what you can buy with two pennies. Have volunteers share their answers with the rest of the group.

Ask • **What good are two pennies?** (You can't get anything with two pennies; they can be added to other coins to buy something; they're almost worthless.)

Say **Now let's look at a story from the Bible. Jesus took notice of a gift that was worth less than one cent. Let's find out why.**

Have the partners look up and read Mark 12:41-44 and then answer these questions:

- **The wealthy people gave lots of money to God. Why do you think Jesus was not as pleased with their gifts as he was with the widow's gift?** (The widow gave everything she had; the others didn't give very much compared to how much they had.)
- **Why was Jesus pleased with the widow's gift?** (She gave from her heart; she trusted God to bless her.)
- **The widow's offering was worth less than a penny. What good is an offering that small?** (It doesn't help much, but it was her heart that counted; God can use anything we give, like he used this offering to teach a lesson on giving.)
- **Do you think God cares how much we give to him? Explain.** (Yes, he wants us to give so it helps; no, he just wants us to give cheerfully and from the heart.)
- **What do you think Jesus cares most about when we give to him?** (Jesus cares about why we give; Jesus cares about our attitude when we give.)

Say **When Jesus watched all of the people bringing their gifts, he saw rich people throwing large offerings into the offering box. Finally he saw a very poor widow put in two tiny coins. Together the coins were worth much less than a penny. It was a tiny offering. Yet Jesus was pleased with her gift. This woman gave to God even though she was poor. God was so important to her that this woman gave all she had to God. She gave wholeheartedly. God is pleased when we give wholeheartedly.**

Have the children take their pennies home as reminders of the Bible story.