

Growing Together

Bible Story

A widow gives all she has to God (Mark 12:41-44).

In Touch

Jesus Cares 6:

Jesus cares about people who are poor.

Bible Verse

“Give as freely as you have received!” (Matthew 10:8b).

Today your child learned that Jesus cares about people who are poor. The class learned that God loves rich and poor people equally and that when we give to others, we're giving to God. Use these activities this week to help your child understand that he or she always has something to give to God.

Living Simply

Adopt this as your family motto: “Live simply so that others may simply live.” There are many ways your family can trim expenses. Conserve energy. Reuse and repair items instead of buying new ones. Play board games instead of going to the movies. Create simple toys from supplies you already have instead of buying expensive toys. Work together to make fun dinners instead of having a pizza delivered or going out for burgers. Donate the money you save to a relief agency.

Act of Giving

As you watch a movie or television with your child, work together to point out all the acts of kindness you see in the program you are watching. Write down how many you see, and see if you can put some of them into action in your family. For an added challenge, watch for areas that someone should have given something but didn't. Talk about what that character could have done instead.

The Giving Tree

Have some family fun by creating a giving tree. Let your child choose a small branch from a tree in your yard or find a fallen branch from a nearby park.

Decorate a paper cup with markers or crayons. Place a wad of modeling clay or modeling dough in the paper cup, and then stick the branch into the clay. Let family members contribute money offerings from odd jobs, allowances, and gifts to the tree. Tape thread to coins, and hang them from the branch. Attach dollar bills by taping them to the branch. Set a family goal for your giving tree; then take your love offering to a homeless shelter.

Rich Man, Poor Man Cake

Make this treat with your child to help show that God loves the rich and the poor equally. As you mix the rich and poor ingredients, give your child a taste of “rich” vanilla and “poor” soda. Talk about how bad the cake would taste if just the rich or poor were used. Point out that all the ingredients combine to make a delicious cake.

Rich Man, Poor Man Cake

Put these rich ingredients in a mixing bowl, and mix:

- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 egg
- ½ cup white sugar
- ¼ cup chocolate syrup
- ½ stick melted margarine

Put these poor ingredients into another bowl, and mix them together:

- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup white flour

Mix the rich and the poor ingredients together. Spread into an 8x8-inch greased pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 20 minutes or until the cake springs back when touched in the center.