

The Widow's Mite

Mark 12:41-44, Luke 21:1-4

Supplies you will need to gather for the lesson:

- 10 sheets of blank paper, something to draw with
- Extra paper to cut into squares
- Change, paper money
- Gift bag
- Beach towel
- Balloon

Bible Story: Always use your Bible.

Let them compare amounts of money, and let them say which they would choose if they had the opportunity (not to worry--you're not giving them the money). For example, put out a penny and a quarter, quarter and a dollar, a penny and a bunch of coins, etc.

Before you start the story, there are a few words that you will need to explain for the kids: temple, mite, offering container, widow, disciples.

The children are going to provide illustrations for the story. You will tell them the picture to draw for each page. (Be sure to number the pages.) Then, once the pictures are drawn you will put them in order and use them to tell the story.

1. The temple.
2. Jesus sitting down.
3. Crowd.
4. Offering box.
5. Rich people.
6. Lots of money.
7. Poor widow.
8. Two very small coins.
9. Jesus' disciples.
10. Lots of money/small amount of money

After you have told the story, let the kids retell it. Be sure they understand that, to Jesus, the heart is more important than the amount of money.

Games and Activities:

What God has given me/What I can give God—Have the kids draw pictures of the good gifts God has given them. Put those in the bag. Then pray and thank God for blessings. Now help them brainstorm gifts that they can give God and draw pictures of those. (Money, time, love, singing, etc.) Help them understand that we are not trading our gifts for God's gifts. We are giving him our gifts in appreciation for what he does for us—sort of like writing a thank you note.

Tongue twister—"The little widow wasn't wealthy when the little widow gave all she had."

Brainstorm ways your family can serve and share with others together. Children learn best by watching the adults in their lives.

Bible Verse: God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Penny Stack game—One child (or parent) lies on the ground. Child sees how many pennies they can stack on the other's forehead, saying one word of the verse for each coin. How many times can they say the verse before the coins crash? You can also stack on a knee, the palm of a hand, etc.

Parachute Bounce—Use a beach towel (or something larger if you have a lot of kids) and a balloon. See how many times you can bounce the balloon up without it falling while saying one word of the verse with each bounce.