

Jesus Notices a Widow's Giving

Mark 12:41-44

Money has become very interesting to your first- and second-graders. They can save money and understand somewhat how much it takes to buy something they want. So the idea of giving money to God can be a new concept for them. Use this lesson to show children how Jesus views the way they give more than the *amount* they give.



► **Bible Point**
Give cheerfully to God.

Key Verse
"God loves a cheerful giver"
(2 Corinthians 9:7).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will give cheerfully to others and God.

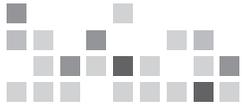
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	What? Me Give? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Be asked to give something, and think of things to give others in the group.		
2 Bible Exploration	Cheerful Giving <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse and practice giving.	Bible	
	Give a Little, Give a Lot <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Act out what happened with the widow in the Temple.	Bible, small paper bag, penny Teacher Pack: "Punch-Out Coins" page 	Punch out the coins.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Gifts for God <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Write or draw pictures of ways to give to God.	My Bible Fun, markers	Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
	Cheerful Giver Pouches <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make money pouches, and commit to cheerful giving this week.	My Bible Fun, CD player, scissors, markers, one 5x5-inch fabric square per child, 1 shoelace or 14- inch length of yarn per child Teacher Pack: CD	For the fabric squares, use loosely woven dishcloths, netting, or burlap. If you use yarn, wrap masking tape around one end to make it easier to thread through the fabric.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



1 GETTING STARTED

What? Me Give?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Today we'll learn about giving. Think of something you could give right now, in this moment.**

Allow kids to ponder for a moment or two. You may get responses such as "I don't have anything to give" or "My mom didn't give me any money to give today."

Say: **All of you have something you can give—to me, to each other, and to God. Let's get into groups. Then we'll figure out something each of you can give today.**

Have the kids count off by fours, and send each group to a different area of the room. Go to each group separately to give instructions without letting the other groups hear you. Tell one group to give the other kids smiles, another group to give hugs, a third group to give high fives, and the last group to give pats on the back.

Say: **Okay, now all of you know something you can give. I want each of you to go around to the other groups and give to each other what I told your group to give.**

Allow kids time to go around the room giving each other smiles, hugs, high fives, and pats on the back. Then have kids gather in one group and sit down.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What were you thinking and feeling when I first told you to give something?
- When you had an idea of what to give, what was it like for you to give in that way?
- What are some ways you give each day?
- Why do you think it's good to give?

Say: **Today we'll hear about a woman who didn't have much, but she still gave everything she could to God. In our activity, at first it might've felt like we had nothing to give, but we really did have things we could give to others! Now let's hear how we can ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD.**

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Cheerful Giving

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 9:7, and show it to kids. Say: **Today we're learning to ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD, and that's exactly what our Key Verse tells us, too! Listen as I read it: "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).** Have the children repeat the verse with you several times.

Say: **God doesn't want us to be crabby when we give to others. God wants us to do it happily. Today we'll hear about a woman who gave cheerfully, but before we hear about her, let's practice giving cheerfully!**

Have kids each find a partner. Say: **Think of something you wouldn't want to give away.** Explain that it could be a favorite pet, their allowances, or their lunches. **Now pretend to give that very thing to your partner, but do it happily.** Allow time. Encourage the children who are receiving the gifts to say "thank you" and give their partners hugs. Let each partner have a turn giving.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

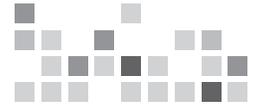
- **What was it like to pretend to give away something you wouldn't want to give?**
- **Why might you want to give away something like that?**
- **What do you like about giving?**

Say: **God doesn't always make us give up our favorite things, but he does want us to give with a cheerful heart, or be happy, when we give to him and others. Our Bible Point for today tells us just that. Let's say it together!** Lead kids in saying, **► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD.** Let's remember that as we hear about a woman in the Bible who gave cheerfully.

Give a Little, Give a Lot

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Mark 12:41-44, and show kids the passage. Say: **Today we'll practice giving cheerfully, as we hear about one woman who gave to God with a cheerful heart.** Assign each child one of the following roles: the rich people, the widow, Jesus, and the disciples. You can have as many rich people as you need to involve the whole class.



Cheerful Giving Supplies

Bible

Give a Little, Give a Lot Supplies

Bible
small paper bag
penny
Teacher Pack
"Punch-Out Coins"
page

Give a Little, Give a Lot Easy Prep

Punch out the coins.



Give the punch-out coins to the children playing the rich people. Give an actual penny to the child portraying the widow.

Say: **As I read the Bible, act out your part.** Have kids spread out in the room and pretend to be going about their business in the Temple. Slowly read Mark 12:41-44. As kids give their money during your reading, have them put the coins in a paper bag. After you finish reading, thank the kids for helping. Then gather kids in a circle. Empty the bag of coins in the middle of the circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **As a rich person in this activity, what was it like to give your coins?**
- **If you were the widow, what was it like to give all you had?**
- **What surprised you about what Jesus said?**
- **What does that make you think about your own giving?**

Say: **Jesus cares more about how we give than what we give. Some people may think it's better to give lots and lots of things and to make sure other people know they're giving so much. That's what the rich people in the Bible did. But Jesus accepts any gift—big or small. And he's most happy with the gifts that we're happy to give. In fact, our Bible Point for today tells us to ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Gifts for God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 4 My Bible Fun page and some markers. Say: **The widow gave all her money to God—and she was happy, too. Today we've learned that God doesn't necessarily want us to give away all our money, but he does want us to listen to him and to give to him cheerfully. What are some things you think God might want you to give away to others or to him?** Allow time.

Let kids write about or draw pictures on the coins in the "Gifts for God" section of things they can give to God. You may want to suggest examples of things to give—reading the Bible, obeying parents, or bringing allowances to church. Then have children form pairs and explain to their partners what they wrote or drew on their coins. Give partners a few minutes to talk, and then let kids share their explanations with the rest of the group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

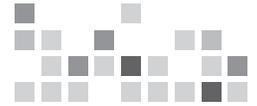
Say: **Like the widow, we can ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD. This week, let's try to give to others and to God whenever we have a chance.**

Gifts for God Supplies

My Bible Fun
markers

Gifts for God Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 4
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.



Cheerful Giver Pouches

What You'll Do

Say: **To remind us to ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD this week, let's make cheerful giver pouches.** Give each child a fabric square and a shoelace or length of yarn. Demonstrate how to use a running stitch to sew the shoelace in and out through the open weave of the cloth, starting about an inch away from the edge and gathering the cloth as you go. When the shoelace is woven around the edge, demonstrate how to pull the ends to close the pouch.

Help each child make a pouch. As kids are working, play “Children of God” (track 2 on the CD). When kids are finished making the pouches, have them turn to the “Cheerful Giving” section of their My Bible Fun pages and cut out the coins. Ask children to look at the picture on the reverse side of each coin and decide whom they could cheerfully serve in the way pictured. Then have kids each write the name of a person in the space provided on each coin. Be sure children include their parents on one of the coins.

Have kids sit in a circle with their Cheerful Giver Pouches and their picture coins. Go around the circle, and let children take turns reading the names on their coins and placing the coins in their pouches.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Who and what were you thinking about as you made your pouch and coins?**
- **Why do you want to give to these people?**
- **Why do you think giving to others is a way to give to God?**

Say: **This week, let's ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD like the widow did. We can give things like money we've earned, or we can give things we do, like listening to a friend in need. Whatever we give, let's give happily.**

Cheerful Giver Pouches Supplies

- My Bible Fun
- CD player
- scissors
- markers
- one 5x5-inch fabric square per child
- 1 shoelace or 14-inch length of yarn per child

Teacher Pack
CD: “Children of God” (track 2)

Cheerful Giver Pouches Easy Prep

For the fabric squares, use loosely woven dischcloths, netting, or burlap. If you use yarn, wrap masking tape around one end to make it easier to thread through the fabric.





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we can ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Share your lunch with a friend at school, and tell him or her about Jesus' love.**
- **Hug each of your family members, and tell them that God wants us to be cheerful givers!**
- **Help your mom or dad clean the house—and do it with a smile!**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Jesus helped the others in the temple learn why he wants us to give—he wants us to give to him and others because we want to. This week, ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD by following through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how we give cheerfully to God. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he always gives to us and takes care of us because he wants to. Let each child have a chance to tell God how he or she wants to give to him this week. Pray: **God, we love you and want to give to you. Help us to give cheerfully to you this week. In Jesus' name, amen.**