

Jesus Notices a Widow's Giving

Mark 12:41-44

The kids in your group are prime targets for today's advertisers. Video games, movies, designer clothes, toys...all may seem so desirable to kids that they can't see beyond their own wants. Use the example of the widow's giving to challenge kids to look beyond their own desires and to see the needs of others. Once they understand the concrete principle of setting aside money for God, they can move on to grasping that intangibles such as time, effort, and prayer are also gifts they can offer to God.



Bible Point
Give cheerfully to God.

Key Verse

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will choose to cheerfully give to someone.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1 Getting Started</p>	<p>Giving Has Its Rewards <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a game of giving crackers and a refreshing glass of water.</p>	<p>Bible, pitchers of ice water, several crackers per child, 1 cup per child, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	<p>Place pitchers of ice water and cups on a table.</p>
<p>2 Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Giving Thoughts <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Read the Bible, share times it was hard to give, hear three people's thoughts as they give, and discuss their attitudes.</p>	<p>Bibles, CD player, tape, scissors Teacher Pack: CD, "Giving Thoughts" poster, "Giving Thoughts" cards</p> 	<p>Hang the poster where everyone can see it. Cut apart the cards on the dotted lines.</p>
	<p>Choosing to Give <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Give different amounts of coins away, and learn the Key Verse.</p>	<p>Bibles, handful of pennies per child, large resealable plastic bag, offering bowl or jar</p>	

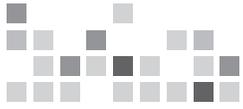
Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	A Gift of Talents <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Form “talent” groups, and think of ways to use their talents to serve God.	Bible Truth Sleuth, paper, pens, tape, poster board, markers	Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	pennies from the “Choosing to Give” activity	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Giving Has Its Rewards Supplies

Bible
pitchers of ice water
several crackers per
child
1 cup per child
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Giving Has Its Rewards Easy Prep

Place pitchers of ice
water and cups on a
table.

1 GETTING STARTED

Giving Has Its Rewards

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids clean their hands. Give each child several crackers, but tell kids not to eat them yet.

Say: **I brought a snack for us all today. But before we eat, I'd like you to decide how generous you will be in giving away some of your crackers. I'll give you a few moments to think about it, and then when I say "Go," I want you to stand up and quickly give away the number you chose to give, one cracker per person. Then sit down.**

Pause to allow kids to think about how many crackers they'll give away, and then say "Go!" After everyone has given away as many crackers as he or she had decided, give kids a couple of minutes to sit down and eat their crackers. Wait until all the kids have finished eating and are very thirsty before giving them the water.

Have kids form pairs and come up one partner at a time to get a cup of ice water for their thirsty friends. Have them go back to where their partners are and say, "I'm happy to give you this refreshing water." Then have the other partner do the same. When all the partners have been served, read aloud the Key Verse, 2 Corinthians 9:7: **"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).**

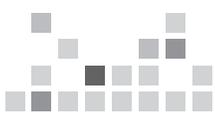
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you decide how many crackers to give away?
- How many crackers would you consider a generous amount to give? Why?
- Tell about a time someone was generous in giving something to you.

Say: **When we give from our hearts, God blesses us in many different ways. There was a woman in the Bible who happily gave the most valuable thing she possessed without expecting anything in return. She knew to ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD. Let's find out what that looks like.**



2

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Giving Thoughts

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure kids all have Bibles, and have them turn to Mark 12:41-44. Have willing kids read each verse aloud.

Say: **Sometimes it's easy to give, and sometimes it's very hard. Choose a partner, and take turns sharing your answers to the following questions.**

Ask:

- Tell about a time giving was easy for you. What did you give, and how did it make you feel?
- Tell about the hardest time you had giving something away. What was it, and how did you feel doing it? Why did you give it away even though it was so hard?

Say: **Let's listen to our CD and pretend Jesus sat down in our church today. He's listening to a few people's hearts as they give their money during a church service.**

Direct kids' attention to the "Giving Thoughts" poster on the wall, and then play "Frank's Thoughts" (track 5 on the CD). After the segment, stop the CD.

Ask:

- On a scale of 1 to 10, how cheerful would you say Frank's attitude was about giving?

Say: **Now let's listen to Frank's sister-in-law Ruby.**

Play "Ruby's Thoughts" (track 6 on the CD). After the segment, stop the CD.

Ask:

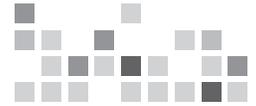
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how cheerful would you say Ruby's attitude was about giving?

Say: **Finally, let's listen to Rosie's thoughts as she gets ready to give her offering.**

Play "Rosie's Thoughts" (track 7 on the CD). After the segment, stop the CD.

Ask:

- On a scale of 1 to 10, how cheerful would you say Rosie's attitude was about giving?



Giving Thoughts Supplies

- Bibles
- CD player
- tape
- scissors

Teacher Pack

- CD: "Frank's Thoughts" (track 5), "Ruby's Thoughts" (track 6), "Rosie's Thoughts" (track 7); "Giving Thoughts" poster; "Giving Thoughts" cards

Giving Thoughts Easy Prep

Hang the poster where everyone can see it. Cut apart the cards on the dotted lines.



Have the kids form three groups. Give each group one of the “Giving Thoughts” cards, and have them discuss their answers. When the groups have finished their discussions, have one person from each group share his or her group’s answers with everyone. Once all the groups have shared, gather everyone again in one group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How were each of the characters’ responses to giving to God different?
- Be honest—which person’s attitude was the most like yours? Explain.
- What are some excuses people could give for only giving a little money?
- How was Rosie like the widow in our Bible passage?

Say: **Like the widow in the Temple, Rosie gave everything she had to God. She chose to give that much. She didn’t feel like she *had* to give—she *wanted* to give. And when she gave, she was cheerful and happy about it. We, too, can ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD. Let’s see how we can choose to give cheerfully just as Rosie and the widow in the Temple did.**

Choosing to Give

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a handful of pennies, and then join kids in forming a large circle.

Say: **I know these are pennies, but let’s imagine each penny is actually a \$10 bill.**

Ask:

- How difficult would it be for you to give away two of the pennies you have in your hand?

Say: **Hold the pennies in your hands. When I say “Decide,” you’ll have five seconds to decide if you want to give two pennies away. Then I’ll say “Go!” and you’ll have to run to put two pennies in the bowl. Ready? Decide! Pause for five seconds. Go!**

Give kids 15 seconds to drop their pennies into the bowl. When time is up, gather them back to the large circle.

Say: **Now return all but two pennies to me.**

Have kids return all but two pennies to the plastic bag.

Say: **Now I want you to give away the two pennies you have in your hand. When I say “Go!” I want you to put those two pennies into the bowl. Ready? Go!**

Allow kids to go and drop their pennies in the bowl.

Choosing to Give Supplies

Bibles
handful of pennies per child
large resealable plastic bag
offering bowl or jar

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do we have a hard time giving away money?
- How differently would you have felt if you knew those two pennies could buy you something you really wanted or needed?

Say: **It can be hard to give away all we have. God doesn't tell us to give *everything* away, but he does tell us to choose what to give and to give it cheerfully. Our Key Verse, 2 Corinthians 9:7, tells us this.**

Read aloud the Key Verse again: **"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).**

Ask:

- What are some things we can choose to give to God?
- How can we choose to be cheerful when we give?

Say: **When we choose to give with a cheerful heart, we please God—just like the widow in the Bible did. It makes God happy to see us give to him because we want to. Let's figure out what we can ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD.**

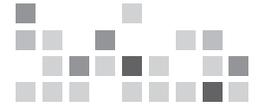
3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

A Gift of Talents

What You'll Do

Create talent groups of three to five kids each. Once all groups are formed, assign one of the following "talents" to each group. Give group members about five minutes to create a gift for the rest of the group by using their particular talent. Then have them share it or perform it for everyone. Some groups may need paper and pens.

- **Drama Group**—Act out a time you experienced or heard about something important that was given away, and tell what happened. An example could be someone donating clothing to a homeless shelter.
- **Music Group**—Pick a popular tune or television theme song, and put words to it that talk about giving something away.
- **Writing Group**—Write a story about something that was given away and how the giver felt. Choose one person as the storyteller to share it with everyone.
- **Art Group**—Have each group member draw a picture of a time he or she had to give something important away. Then have the kids tape the pictures together like a quilt and hang it on the wall.

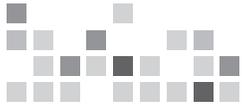


A Gift of Talents Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth
paper
pens
tape
poster board
markers

A Gift of Talents Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.



When time is up, have each group “give” its talent to the rest of the group. Allow time.

Distribute pens and this week’s Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the “What Can You Give to God?” activity. Have them create a list of as many ways as they can think of to give to another person using these three areas listed on the Bible Truth Sleuth page:

- Things I could buy
- Things I can make
- Things I could do

Have kids share with the group the ideas they came up with. Write a list of answers on the poster board for everyone to see, avoiding duplications. Encourage kids to add unique ideas to their lists.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why is it important to share our talents with others?**
- **How has God been generous toward you?**
- **Of the ideas you wrote, which ones are the most practical things for you to be able to do to give cheerfully this week?**

Say: **Our talents are something valuable to us. They make us do things well and make each of us unique. We can use our talents to ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD—just as the widow did.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let’s commit to giving cheerfully to someone this week. Giving to others is one way we actually give to God!**

Have kids turn to the “What Can You Give to God?” activity on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and then have kids each choose one person (from their neighborhood, school, or church) that they would like to give something to as their Daily Challenge this week.

At the bottom of the page, have kids write the name of the person they’re planning on doing something for this week. Then have kids circle one action on their things they could buy, make, or do list as a commitment to give to that person.

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth
pens

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids 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.**

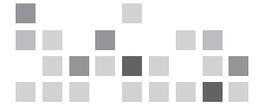
Say: **We can ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD—just as the widow did! That means we can give money to the church or to missionaries. But it also means we can give our talents or time to others by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about their commitment to give to someone this week and what they learned about cheerful giving. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Give kids each one of the pennies. Give the kids a minute to pray in pairs, thanking God for providing and asking for help to give back cheerfully to God.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
pennies from the
“Choosing to Give”
activity

