

Jesus Notices a Widow's Giving

Mark 12:41-44

Preschoolers are just beginning to learn to share and cooperate. They have a strong sense of what belongs to them and what belongs to others and are usually hesitant to give up something they cherish. Use this lesson to help preschoolers understand that God is pleased when we give to him cheerfully, even if we can give only a little bit.



► **Bible Point**
Give to God.

Key Verse
"Jesus Christ is Lord"
(Philippians 2:11).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will give to God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>"Loving God" Parade Create signs together, and have a parade for Jesus.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, 1 poster board for every 5 children, markers, crepe paper streamers Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Puppy Pointers Help Theo discover what he can do with two coins.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, tape Teacher Pack: CD, gold coins</p>	<p>Tape 2 gold coins to Theo's paw.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: Saving the Best for Last Learn about the feelings of the widow in the Bible passage, and act out part of what happened.</p>	<p>Bible, plate, scissors Teacher Pack: "Sad, Mad, Glad Faces and Jesus Figure" page, gold coins</p> 	<p>Cut out the sad, mad, and glad faces. Set aside the Jesus figure.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Open Hand Trace hands, and glue coins on the tracings.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, yellow paper, scissors, crayons, glue</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut coinlike circles from the yellow paper.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Cheerful Giving, Happy Living Learn about the difference between certain feelings, and why attitude makes a difference.</p>	<p>CD player, bowl, 3 foam cups per child, pens, fruit snacks, antibacterial gel (optional) Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Put 1 handful of fruit snacks per child into the bowl.</p>
	<p>Center 3: Together-Giving Game Work together to give everyone the best seat in the house, even when there aren't enough chairs.</p>	<p>CD player, 1 chair per child Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
	<p>Center 4: Neat-to-Eat Give-Away Treat Stir up some fun with this easy-to-make-and-give treat.</p>	<p>1 box of cheese crackers, 1 bag of small candies, and 1 box of cereal squares per 20 kids; large mixing bowl; ladle; 1 lunch bag per child; stickers; antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
<p>5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p>Action Prayer Draw or name items to give to God.</p>	<p>paper, crayons, basket</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "I Am So Happy" (track 10), "I'm Proud to Follow Jesus" (track 7)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "I Am So Happy" (track 10 on the CD) to the tune of "I Have the Joy." Encourage children to shout and do the motions as the text in parentheses indicates.



I am so happy, happy, happy, happy

That you are here.

(children shout and throw their hands in the air) What?

That you are here.

(children shout and throw their hands in the air) What?

That you are here.

I am so happy, happy, happy, happy

That you are here.

(children shout and throw their hands in the air) Where?

Here in God's church today.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: **Today we'll learn about a woman who was so happy about God that she wanted to ► GIVE TO GOD all she could. She was proud to follow God, and we can be too. Let's sing about that.**

Lead children in singing "I'm Proud to Follow Jesus" (track 7 on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.



I am proud to follow Jesus, *(put hands on hips)*

Yes, Jesus; oh, Jesus. *(stretch arms up high)*

I am proud to follow Jesus *(put hands on hips)*

Wherever he goes. *(point around the room)*

I'm not ashamed of Jesus, *(shake finger, "no")*

Yes, Jesus; oh, Jesus. *(stretch arms up high)*

I am not ashamed of Jesus. *(shake finger, "no")*





I'm proud he's my friend. *(put hands on hips)*

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: **When we love God and Jesus, it makes us want to ► GIVE TO GOD. In the Bible today, we'll hear about a woman who did just that. Let's learn more about loving and giving to God.**

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

“Loving God” Parade

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Philippians 2:11, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, “Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2:11). This means that Jesus is God and he's in charge of everything in our lives. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **“Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2:11).**

Say: **It's really exciting news that Jesus is Lord because he's great at being in charge. Sometimes when people want to celebrate someone really great, they have a parade. Let's have a parade for Jesus.**

Say: **First, we'll make signs to carry in our parade.** Put kids in groups of five, and give each group a poster board and some markers. Have them decorate the signs. Visit each group and write a word or phrase about Jesus on the group's poster board. For example, write one word from the Key Verse on each poster board.

Say: **I think we're ready for our parade. Since our Bible Point today tells us to ► GIVE TO GOD, let's give all we've got in this parade. What I mean is, use all you have—your voices, your energy, your excitement—to tell everyone that Jesus Christ is Lord.** Check for understanding. Then show how three people in each group can hold a sign. (Place one child on each side of the sign and one child in the center behind it.) Give the remaining children strips of crepe paper to carry and wave in the parade.

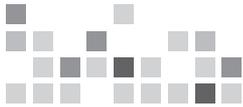
Have the children line up, and then start the parade by playing “God Loves a Cheerful Giver” (track 14 on the CD). Encourage children to shout, “Jesus Christ is Lord!” as they march around the room.



“Loving God” Parade Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- 1 poster board for every 5 children
- markers
- crepe paper streamers
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “God Loves a Cheerful Giver” (track 14)





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
tape
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 5)
gold coins

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tape 2 gold coins to
Theo's paw.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you like about celebrating Jesus in our parade?
- What are other ways you can show Jesus you know he's God?

Say: **The woman we'll hear about in the Bible today wanted to ► GIVE TO GOD because she knew that he was in charge. We know Jesus is in charge, too. Let's celebrate Jesus this week by being excited about him and by telling others about how great Jesus is.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 5 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today.

Theo: I love coming to church to see all these boys and girls!

Teacher: Well, we love it when you visit us! What do you have with you today?

Theo: It's money.

Teacher: What are you planning on doing with your money?

Theo: I might go buy a toy.

Teacher: What else could you do with your money?

Theo: I might put it in my piggy bank.

Teacher: What's another idea?

Theo: I might give it away to help people who need money to buy food.

Teacher: That sounds like a good idea. It's always good to give money to help people. Today we'll hear in the Bible about a woman who gave all her money to God. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► GIVE TO GOD.)

Teacher: Exactly!

Theo: This is the money I earned from working hard and doing my best. Will you give it to God for me?

Teacher: We would love to. Thanks for visiting us today! Boys and girls, say goodbye to Theo!

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.



Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think about how Theo decided to use his money?
- Explain what you do with your money or other things, like toys.
- Why is it good to share our money and things with God?

Say: Theo gave us his money so we could give it to God, kind of like the woman we'll read about in the Bible today. The woman wanted to ► GIVE TO GOD. Even if we don't have money, we ► GIVE TO GOD, too, when we share our things or give our time to help others.

Bible Time: Saving the Best for Last

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Mark 12:41-44, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: Today we'll learn that we ► GIVE TO GOD.

Choose three children, and have each child hold one of the sad, mad, or glad faces you cut apart ahead of time. Have the child holding the glad face hold it above his or her head, and have all the other children show their biggest smiles. Then have the child holding the sad face hold it above his or her head while the rest of the children make sad faces. Repeat the process with the mad face.

Say: As we listen to what happened in the Bible, our friends will hold up the cards at different times. Pay careful attention and show your best face each time you see a friend holding up a face card. Check for understanding, and practice randomly alternating the face cards and having the group practice for a minute—signal the children holding cards by touching them on the shoulder.

Point to Mark 12:41 in the Bible. Say: This starts out sad. Have the child hold up the sad face while the others show their sad faces. Then say: But I think you'll like the way it ends! Glad face.

There was a woman whose husband had died; she was called a widow. Sad face. She was sad to lose her husband because she loved him very much, but she loved God, too, and knew that God would take care of her. Glad face.

This widow didn't have very much money because she didn't have a job. Sad face. But she still knew that it was right to give money to the Temple, which was her church. Glad face.



Bible Time: Saving the Best for Last Supplies

Bible
plate
scissors

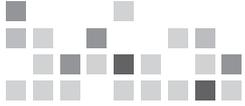
Teacher Pack

"Sad, Mad, Glad Faces and Jesus Figure"
page
gold coins

Bible Time: Saving the Best for Last Easy Prep

Cut out the sad, mad, and glad faces. Set aside the Jesus figure.





Say: **The widow didn't have much money to give, but she didn't care what other people thought because she knew that God loves a cheerful giver.** Glad face.

One day, she went to the Temple to give her money to God. She had only two coins, not nearly as much as she wanted to give to God. Sad face. **Was God mad that she had only two coins to give him?** Mad face. **No—it was okay! God knew this was the best that she could give.** Glad face.

There was someone else at the Temple that day who was also giving money to God. He had a lot of money, so when he dropped his money in the box, it made a BIG noise! Drop the gold coins from the Teacher Pack on the floor, but keep two to use later.

Everyone in the whole Temple turned to see what this man was doing. Some people might have gotten angry that their money didn't make as much noise dropping in the box. Mad face.

Then it was the widow's turn. She took her two coins and put them quietly in the box. Place the two remaining coins quietly on the plate. **There was no big noise. No one saw what she gave to God.** Sad face. **But Jesus was at the Temple that day, and he saw her.** Glad face. **And that's all that mattered.**

Have each child pick up one of the coins you dropped on the floor. Say: **God wants us to give our best, and it's okay if our best is only one coin.** Pass around the plate, and have the children put in their gold coins one at a time.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to give your only coin to God?**
- **Why do you want to give to God?**
- **What are some things in your life that you can give to God?**

Say: **You didn't have much to give to God, just like the widow. The widow gave all she could to God, and that's what God wanted. Jesus said that when we**
 ► **GIVE TO GOD, he wants us to give our best. He wants us to trust God enough to give everything to him.** Show the glad face. **God is very glad when we give to him.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.



CENTER 1:

Open Hand

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 4 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **In the Bible, Jesus tells us to ► GIVE TO GOD.** Have each child hold up one hand. **We give with our hands.** Have each child trace a hand inside the green circle on the My Bible Hugs page. Then have them color their hands.

Say: **It's not always easy to give. The widow was very poor. She gave all the money she had to God because she knew that everything she had was God's. She trusted God.**

Lay the "coins" you made ahead of time in front of the kids. Have kids tell some things or ways they can give to God. As they tell ways, write a single word or short phrase on each coin and give it to the child who said it. Help each child think of at least one thing or way he or she can ► **GIVE TO GOD.** Then have kids glue the coins to the hands on their My Bible Hugs pages.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is it sometimes hard to give?
- What makes you happy about giving?
- What can you ► **GIVE TO GOD** this week?

Say: **The widow knew that God gave her everything she had, and she wanted to give everything back to God. She knew he would always take care of her. Like the widow, we can ► GIVE TO GOD, knowing he'll take care of us.**

CENTER 2:

Cheerful Giving, Happy Living

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **We're learning today that God wants us to give to him cheerfully.**

Give each child 3 foam cups and a pen. Say: **When we heard all about the widow in the Bible, we heard some sad stuff.** Have each child draw a sad face on one cup. **We heard some glad stuff.** Have each child draw a happy face on a different cup. **And we heard some mad stuff.** Have each child draw an angry face on his or her last cup.

Show the fruit snacks in the bowl. Say: **Let's play a game. We'll listen to some kids who have some questions that might be sad, glad, or mad. When you hear a**



Center 1: Open Hand Supplies

My Bible Hugs
yellow paper
scissors
crayons
glue

Center 1: Open Hand Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut coinlike circles from the yellow paper.

Center 2: Cheerful Giving, Happy Living Supplies

CD player
bowl
3 foam cups per child
pens
fruit snacks
antibacterial gel (optional)

Teacher Pack:
CD: "Sad, Mad, Glad Game" (track 13)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 2: Cheerful Giving, Happy Living Easy Prep

Put 1 handful of fruit snacks per child into the bowl.





question, take one fruit snack from the bowl and put it in either your sad, glad, or mad cup. Help kids understand that they'll decide which cup based on whether they can answer the question with a sad, glad, or mad face. There's not a right answer—just let kids think about how they want to respond to the questions.

Say: **Ready? Remember, God loves a cheerful giver!** Play “Sad, Mad, Glad Game” (track 13 on the CD), and help kids play the game. The CD includes 5- to 10-second pauses between questions to allow time for kids to quickly choose. Pause the CD between questions, if necessary.

At the end of the game, let the children eat the fruit snacks in the glad-face cup. Have them put the fruit snacks from the other cups back into the bowl. Begin the game again, reminding children that God wants us to give our best.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What were you thinking when you got to eat the fruit snacks in the glad cup?**
- **What was it like to put the fruit snacks from the sad and mad cups back into the bowl?**
- **Why do you think it's good for us to be glad to give something away?**

Say: **It's not always easy to share, but God wants us to share with a cheerful heart. And in our game today, we found that when we had cheerful hearts, things worked out better for us. As we ► GIVE TO GOD this week, let's give with cheerful hearts, just like the widow we heard about in the Bible.**

■ CENTER 3:

Together-Giving Game

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the kids sit in a circle on chairs. Say: **Let's play a fun game of musical chairs.** Have the kids turn their chairs to face outward and then sit down.

Say: **Here's how we play: I'll play music, and as the music plays, you'll walk around the chairs. As soon as the music stops, you'll sit on the chair closest to you.** Have the children practice with two rounds so that everyone has a seat both rounds.

Say: **I'm going to add a rule to the game.** Take away one chair. **Now there aren't enough chairs. So when the music stops, one of you won't have anywhere to sit. But instead of trying to get yourself a chair, work together to make sure everyone has somewhere to sit.** Encourage children to share their seats or to push chairs together to make larger chairs. Let kids come up with their own creative ideas to give a seat to everyone.

Center 3: Together-Giving Game Supplies

CD player
1 chair per child
Teacher Pack
CD: “Jesus Loves Me Rock” (track 4)



Play the game, and each round after the music stops, continue taking away another chair until it's impossible for all the kids to fit on the remaining chairs.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to work with your friends to give everyone a seat?
- Explain whether it's harder for you to give away a toy you don't use or a favorite toy.
- What do you think God wants *you* to give?

Say: God gave us the very best gift of all when he sent his own Son, Jesus, to earth. And when we give to others, he wants us to work hard at giving our best, too. God wants us to give our best. You did a great job working together with your friends, giving your best together to make sure everyone could have fun playing the game. Good job! This week, let's ► GIVE TO GOD our very best.

■ CENTER 4:

Neat-to-Eat Give-Away Treat

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **We're learning today to ► GIVE TO GOD. And one way we give to God is to give to others who are in need. Let's make some yummy snack mix to give away. We can give them to people who seem really hungry, or we can give them to people who seem sad and might need a special treat.**

Encourage the children to decorate lunch bags with stickers and then make a snack mix together to put inside the bags. Have the children take turns putting the following items into a large mixing bowl: cheese crackers, cereal squares, and candy pieces. Then have them take turns stirring the mix and using a ladle to scoop some snack mix into their bags.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's it like to make a snack mix to give away?
- Tell about someone you can give this snack mix to.

Say: **The widow gave money to God. And we can give money, too. But we can also ► GIVE TO GOD by sharing or giving special treats to cheer up friends. Or we can give food to help people who are hungry. There are a lot of ways we can ► GIVE TO GOD, and when we do, he wants us to give cheerfully.**

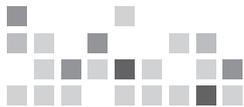


Center 4: Neat-to-Eat Give-Away Treat Supplies

- 1 box of cheese crackers, 1 bag of small candies, and 1 box of cereal squares per 20 kids
- large mixing bowl
- ladle
- 1 lunch bag per child
- stickers
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

Action Prayer Supplies

paper
crayons
basket

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that Jesus wants us to ► GIVE TO GOD. I would like each of you to choose a way to give to God this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Give your special snack to someone, and tell him or her why you want to ► GIVE TO GOD.**
- ■ **Do your best to share with others all week.**

Say: **If you want to give away your special snack, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to share all week, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

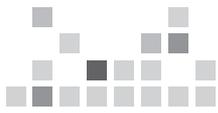
Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form a circle, and have the children sit down. Ask each child to name the best thing he or she could give to God. Have the child draw a picture of the item on a piece of paper, or write the name of it on the paper for the child, and ask them to put their papers in a basket one at a time. Remind kids that this is what they're giving to Jesus; he's watching and is pleased with them. As they drop their papers into the basket, have the children repeat this prayer or one of their own.

Pray: **Dear Lord,
I want to give you my best.
I give you [child describes what is on the paper].
Please help me be a cheerful giver.
In Jesus' name, amen.**





Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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



