

God's kingdom belongs to people like these children. (Mark 10:14b)

The Widow's Coins – Luke 21:1-4

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

- The Widow's Coins** (Counting)
- Offering Box** (Craft)
- Giving** (Journaling)
- The Widow and Her Coins** (Coloring Page)
- G.I.V.E.** (Mission Activity)
- Peaceful Place** (Response Activities)
- Pass the Coin** (Game)
- Looking to Give** (Craft)
- Giving Back** (Activity)
- Giving Together** (Prayer Activity)

Supplies At-a-Glance

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| <i>crayons</i> | <i>jar</i> |
| <i>colored pencils</i> | <i>drawing paper</i> |
| <i>markers</i> | <i>paper circles</i> |
| <i>scissors</i> | <i>basket</i> |
| <i>play coins</i> | <i>music</i> |
| <i>card stock</i> | <i>music player</i> |
| <i>pencils</i> | <i>paper craft rolls</i> |
| <i>posterboard or butcher paper</i> | <i>duct tape</i> |
| <i>stickers</i> | <i>construction paper</i> |
| <i>yarn (optional)</i> | <i>glue</i> |
| | <i>clipboards</i> |

Suggested Book

Give and Take by Chris Raschka

Tips for the Leader

- Reflect on what you have learned about God's kingdom during this month's sessions.
- As you talk about giving money, be sure to be sensitive to different socioeconomic backgrounds of the children in your group.
- The giving of intangible things can be hard for younger children to understand. It is OK if they can't immediately think of ways to give that don't involve money.
- This is the last session of this quarter. As you look ahead to next week, be sure to remember to prepare all of the resources you will need from the Class Pack for the spring quarter.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: KINGDOM

In this story, Jesus is addressing the attitude of giving. When the widow gave all that she had to live on, the widow demonstrated her trust in God. Giving can be hard, especially if you feel you do not have much to give. Jesus draws attention to the widow in the temple not because she gave so much, but because she gave all that she had. Jesus highlights the contrast between the rich people, carelessly throwing their gifts in, and the poor widow, who brought her two coins that were not worth much at all.

This story reminds us to be like the widow. When reading this story, you can reflect on your thoughts and feeling behind giving what you have. Sometimes we give too much; other times we do not give enough. This is not always financially possible, so giving back can take on many different forms. Giving back can include giving our time, our energy, or even our efforts.

As you prepare this week's lesson, use it as an opportunity to examine your attitude about giving. As you reflect on this topic, remember that our gifts to God are not only financial. We also give of our time, our talents, our presence, and our witness. Teaching children about God's love is definitely a gift of time, talent, presence, and witness! Thank you for the offering you give each week.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week we are talking about giving, which can be a hard topic for you and for children. Giving is often equated with money and possessions but giving can be so many things. Just by teaching the children, you are giving. One way to give is by acknowledging the ways others give around you. Take time to thank people who give to you, give to others, and give to the world. Showing appreciation is a great gift to give.

Come Together

Come Together

Supplies: *Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, green cloth, battery-operated candle, an offering plate or box*

Prepare Ahead: *Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a green cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21). Place the offering plate inside the Wonder Box.*

- Point to the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster, and invite the children to wonder about what the word *kingdom* means.
- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we have been learning about God’s kingdom.

ASK: What does it mean to give back?

- We recommend reading a story each week from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary child to read, “The Widow’s Coins” (pp. 238–239), from the storybook Bible or read Luke 21:1-4 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for teaching us what is most important in the kingdom of God. Amen.

The Widow’s Coins – Preschool

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids’ Book, crayons, play coins (optional)*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy “The Widow’s Coins” (Reproducible 13A) for each preschooler.*

- Hand out a copy of “The Widow’s Coins” to each preschooler.

SAY: The widow gave her coins to the collection box at the temple.

ASK: How many coins did the widow give? How high can you count?

- Invite the preschoolers to count the coins. You may also have preschoolers place the play coins on the pictures of the coins to help them count.
- Encourage the preschoolers to color the page.

Offering Box – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons, scissors, card stock

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Offering Box" (Reproducible 13B) on card stock for each child.

- Hand out a copy of "Offering Box" to each child.
- Invite the children to decorate their box. Then have the children cut out and follow the directions to fold and assemble their box.

SAY: The widow gave her coins at the temple. Where do you give?

Giving – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Giving" (Reproducible 13C) for each child.

- Hand out a copy of "Giving" to each older elementary child.

SAY: In the Bible story, Jesus pointed out that the widow in the story gave all that she had.

ASK: What gifts can you give?

- Invite the children to write or draw about ways that they can give what they have.
- Invite willing volunteers to share.

SAY: No gift is too small for God.

The Widow and Her Coins – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "The Widow and Her Coins" (Reproducible 13E) for each child.

- Invite the children to color the page.
- Encourage older children to draw their own image of the story.

ASK: What do you think it would feel like to give all you had?

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 13 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: What was Jesus trying to teach?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages from the Reproducible Kids' Book, 13F–13G. Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading the story one section at a time. Invite children to act out the story if they are comfortable.

WONDER: What do you think made the widow want to give all that she had?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18). Locate and cut out the Unit 3 story figures (Class Pack—p. 3) if you haven't already.

SAY: Today's faith word is *kingdom*.

ASK: What is God's kingdom like?

- Show the children the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21).
- Read the definition of the word *kingdom* from the Faith Word Poster.

ASK: What is important in God's kingdom? What can you give to God's kingdom?

- Have a child place the widow and her coins on the Wonder Mat.

WONDER together:

- What is a widow?
- What questions do you have about this story?
- What kinds of coins were there during Bible times?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the offering plate.

SAY: This is something we use to collect money at church, but you don't just have to give money to serve God.

ASK: What are other ways you can serve God or serve your church?

Experience Wonder

G.I.V.E – All Ages

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, posterboard or large sheet of butcher paper, markers*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "G.I.V.E." (Reproducible 13D) for each child. Write the letters G, I, V, and E on a large sheet of paper or posterboard.*

SAY: In the Bible story, we learned that the widow gave her two coins at the temple.

ASK: Why do you think Jesus pointed out what the widow was doing? What was Jesus trying to teach about giving?

SAY: There are many different ways we can give. Let's look at our papers to get some ideas.

- Hand out a copy of "G.I.V.E." to each child.
- Go over what each of the letters stand for and have children brainstorm their ideas.
- Encourage children to write or draw their own ideas on their paper.
- As a group, compile your ideas together on the larger paper.
- Hang the paper in your space as a reminder to give back.

WONDER: How can we start doing some of these things today?

Examine the Bible Verse – Early & Older Elementary

SAY: Our Unit 3 Bible verse is Mark 10:14b. Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Mark in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Mark located in the New Testament? (*second book*) In what chapter of Mark is our verse located? (*10*) What is the verse number? (*14*)

SAY: The Bible story is found in the Book of Mark, which is one of the Gospels.

- Gather the kids around the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster. Read it together.

ASK: What have you learned about God's kingdom?

Peaceful Place – Preschool & Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 3 Faith Word (Reproducible Kids' Book 10F); Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook; Give and Take, by Chris Raschka; paper; crayons or markers; jar; play coins (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 3 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 10F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items provided.
- Have the children write down ways they can give and place them in the jar. Children can also play with the coins and the jar.
- Encourage the children to color the Unit 3 Faith Word Coloring Page.
- Encourage children to illustrate what they have learned about God's kingdom.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring God's Kingdom Through Community

Supplies: paper circles, pencils, basket

SAY: A spiritual practice is something we do to help us be present with God. This month we are going to practice ways that we can be encouraging members of God's community.

- Guide the children through a spiritual practice.

SAY: There are many ways we can give. In church, you might see people placing an offering in a plate or basket. Today, we are going to place suggestions for ways we can give in our basket as symbols of what we want to give to God.

- Have each child write or draw one way they can give on a circle.
- Invite each child to place their circle in the basket.
- After the children have placed their giving circles in the basket, hold the basket up high and say a prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, we hope we can give what we can to you. Amen.

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book; Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Family Celebration Letter" (p. 128) for each child.

SAY: Let's take a look at your Take-Home Pages (*Reproducibles 13F–13G*). Ask your family to read the Bible story and participate in this week's spiritual practice with you. Look for ways that you and your family can give back this week!

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages and a copy of the Family Celebration Letter home with each child.

Supplemental Activities

Preschool – Pass the Coin

Supplies: larger play coins, music player, music

SAY: Today we heard a Bible story about a widow and her coins.

ASK: How many coins did the widow give?

SAY: Let's play a game to remind us of the Bible story.

- Gather the children in a circle.
- Start by holding a coin. When the music starts, pass the coin to your right or left. Encourage the children to keep passing the coin around the circle.
- Stop the music. Whoever is holding the coin then has to sit in the middle of the circle.
- Repeat until all children are in the middle. Say a chant together: "We can all give to God!"
- As a variation, start more than one coin around the circle.

Tip: If you do not have play coins, you can use any large circular object to represent a coin.

Early Elementary – Looking to Give

Supplies: paper craft rolls, duct tape, stickers, construction paper, scissors, glue, hole punch (optional), yarn (optional)

ASK: Is it easy to give? How can we find ways to give?

SAY: Let's make binoculars that can help us look for ways to give.

- Give each child two paper craft rolls.
- Show the children how to use the duct tape to attach the craft rolls together to make binoculars. Add glue if needed.

- Encourage children to decorate their binoculars.
 - If you would like, punch two holes on each end of the binoculars and attach a piece of string to wear your binoculars around your neck.
- ASK:** What are some ways we can give back that might be in this room? Let's look!
- Encourage the children to take their binoculars home to look for ways to give back.

Older Elementary – Giving Back

Supplies: paper, pens, clipboards (optional)

SAY: In the Bible story, Jesus teaches us what is important about giving.

- Give each child a piece of paper on a clipboard. Have the children find a quiet spot in the room.
- Have the children write down five or more things that are important to them. Have the children place them in order of most important to least important.

ASK: Is there anything on your list you could give up? Why or why not? What is first on your list? What can you do with that to give back?

SAY: You are not required to give it up. God just wants you to give back.

ASK: What is the difference in giving up and giving back?

PRAY: Dear God, help me look for ways I can give back to you and to others. Amen.

Intergenerational Activity – Giving Together

SAY: Sometimes it is easier to give together than to try and do it alone.

ASK: What are things we can do together to give?

- Divide the participants into small groups.
- Have each group use a device to look up ways to give in your community. Groups might also think of ways to give at your church.
- Have the groups share their ideas.
- After all the groups have shared, encourage the groups to make a plan to work together to give back together.
- Consider scheduling a service day, a collection, or a donation drive.