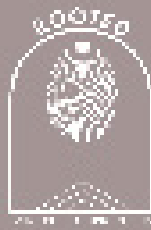


GIVING

WE GIVE BECAUSE WE LOVE JESUS



GIVING

BIBLE PASSAGE

Mark 12:41-44 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

We give because we love Jesus.

FOCUS VERSE

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give... for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

LESSON MATERIALS

| *Giving Cards* Activity Page | *Paper Coins* Activity Page or Play Coins |
Widow’s Giving Activity Page | Heart Stickers | Crayons |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Why do we need money?
- When you go to the store, what do you like to buy?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Worship is more than singing. We can worship God with our giving too! We worship by giving our bodies, our time, hearts, voices, lives, and money to God [Romans 12:1]. Did you know that everything we do can be worship to God? Let’s start our time together in worship by giving our bodies and voices to God.”

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Let prayer be the first thing you do to set the tone for the lesson.

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“Jesus, make us more like You. Help us do the things You tell us to do even if they are hard. We know You always want what is best for us because You love us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

BACKGROUND: Say, “Today, we will take a break from our normal lessons to learn about giving to God. What kinds of things can you give to God? [Wait for responses.] Those are great answers! I love that you thought of so many ways you can give to God. Now, it is time to get ready for our lesson with a game!”

TRANSITION: Say, “I want to play a game about giving. Does that sound like fun? Let’s get started!”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Giving Cards* Activity Page (1 set per pair) | *Paper Coins* Activity Page or Play Coins (10 coins per child) |

Say, “The game we will be playing is called, *Give It All Away*. No one has ever played this game before, so I need you to listen closely. Instead of trying to be the one with the most coins at the end, to win, you have to try to be the one who gives away all their coins. Are you ready?”



BEFORE CLASS, CUT OUT ONE SET OF *GIVING CARDS* FROM THE *GIVING CARDS* ACTIVITY PAGE FOR EACH PAIR OF CHILDREN. THIS GAME IS GOING TO WORK BEST IF YOU MODEL HOW TO PLAY FIRST.

GAME GOAL: To give all your coins away to your partner by following the instructions on the *Giving Cards* Activity Pages.

HOW TO PLAY:

- Partner the children into groups of two and give each pair one set of *Giving Cards*. Then, provide each person with ten “coins.”
- One at a time, have the partners take turns drawing a *Giving Card*. Once the card is drawn, the child will look at the amount they must give their partner and follow the directions.
- Continue taking turns drawing cards and following each card’s directions until one partner has given away all of their coins. The person who was able to give all of their coins away first wins.
- Replay as time allows.

TRANSITION: Say, “You guys did a great job playing *Give It All Away*! How many of you were able to give all of your coins away? Great! In fact, giving our money away is what our story is about. Are you ready to hear about it?”

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Paper Coins or Play Coins (from the ENGAGE game) |

Say, “Our story today is about giving the way Jesus wants us to give—from the heart. There is a poor woman [widow] in our story who will show us the best way to give. Let’s find out what Jesus says is special about the way this woman gave. Let’s read it together.” Read Mark 12:41-44 (ICB). Tell the story in your own words or read the passage below.

⁴¹ Jesus sat near the Temple [church] money box where people put their gifts. He watched the people put in their money. Many rich people gave large amounts of money. ⁴² Then a poor widow came and gave two very small copper coins. These coins were not worth even a penny.

⁴³ Jesus called his followers to him. He said, “I tell you the truth. This poor widow gave only two small coins. But she really gave more than all those rich people. ⁴⁴ The rich have plenty; they gave only what they did not need. This woman is very poor. But she gave all she had. And she needed that money to help her live.”

Say, "Something surprising happened in our story. Did you hear it? The poor widow only gave God two small coins, but Jesus was so happy with her gift!"



VISUALS WILL HELP WITH THIS LESSON. USE THE PAPER COINS AS YOU SHARE ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WIDOW'S AND RICH PEOPLE'S GIFTS.

Ask, "Why do you think Jesus was happier with the widow than the rich people? [Wait for responses.] The poor widow gave to God because she loved God, so she gave everything she had. However, the rich people in the story gave God only a little of the money they didn't need anyway! The rich people didn't love God; they were just following what God told them to do. But Jesus teaches His followers and us that **we give because we love Jesus**. When we give our money, we should do it with lots of love for God!"

CHALLENGE: *If your children are on the older end of this age group, continue with this next teaching on the difference between tithes and offerings.* Say, "The widow loved God so much that she didn't just give God the amount that was required—ten percent. We call this the *tithe*. Instead, the widow gave God more than the tithe. We call her gift an *offering*, which is anything given to God beyond the tithe. God tells us to give, but our hearts should say, '**we give because we love Jesus.**'"

TITHE AND OFFERING ACTIVITY: Using the coins from the ENGAGE game, demonstrate the widow's giving compared to the rich person's giving. Choose someone to be the poor widow and give them two coins. Then choose another child to be the rich person and give them all of the other coins. Tell the "widow" to put both of her coins on a table as if she is giving them to God. Then, tell the "rich person" to offer just one coin from what they have. Encourage the children to act out the attitudes of the characters as they give.

TRANSITION: Say, "Let's remember to be like the poor widow who teaches us that **we give because we love Jesus** not because we have to."

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Discuss the story: Say, "Let's see what you can remember about today's story."

1. Why do we give?

Response: **We give because we love Jesus.**

2. Why was Jesus so happy with the widow's little gift?

Response: The widow gave because she loved God, and love is always the best reason to give.

3. How much of her money did the poor widow give?

Response: The widow gave everything she had. She loved God more than her money!

4. How can you practice giving like the poor widow this week?

Response: Answers will vary.

5. What do we learn about Jesus from this story?

Response: Jesus' love encourages us to give, Jesus sees the heart of the giver, Jesus is more interested in why we give than how much we give, Jesus wants us to obey His rules out of love, God commands His children to give.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great discussion! Let's do an activity to help us remember that **we give because we love Jesus.**"

RESPOND — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Widow's Giving* Activity Page (1 per child) | Heart Stickers (1 per child) | Crayons |

Say, "The widow's story teaches us that **we give because we love Jesus.** Can everyone say that with me? '**We give because we love Jesus.**' Now, let's do an activity to help us remember the poor widow's loving gift to God."



THE KIDS WILL PLAY WITH THE STICKER IF YOU GIVE IT TO THEM RIGHT AWAY. ONCE ALL THE WIDOW'S GIVING PAGE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY COLORED IN, THEN GIVE EACH CHILD A HEART. HELP THEM PUT IT ON THE WIDOW.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Give each child a *Widow's Giving* Activity Page and crayons.
- The kids should color the entire *Widow's Giving* Activity Page.
- Give each child a Heart Sticker and then tell them to place the sticker on the widow to show that she gives because she loves God not because she is told to.

TRANSITION: Say, "Remember, **we give because we love Jesus.**"

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "We have a new memory verse just for this week. It explains that we should give with happy hearts that love God! Make sure to remember that **we give because we love Jesus** most of all."

For God (point toward heaven) loves a cheerful giver (jump joyfully in the air)." 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) (hold your hands out like a book)

CHALLENGE: Focus on the word "cheerfully." Have the children show you their best cheerful facial expression. Then, have them show you their best cheerful action. Finally, ask: "What are we supposed to do cheerfully?" Have them repeat, "Give to God!"

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "**We give because we love Jesus.** What a great reason to give! God tells us to give to Him, and we should always obey God. The best way to give though is with love! You may not feel like you love Jesus enough to give your money away to Him yet; that is normal! If you feel that way, you can do two things: 1) Obey God and give even when you don't feel like giving. 2) Pray and ask God to help you have a heart to give like the poor widow. Let's grow in **giving because we love Jesus.**"

SAMPLE PRAYER: "God, thank You for teaching us how to become the best givers—givers who love You! Thank You for teaching us something new and for loving us so much. In Jesus' name, Amen."



THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO INSTITUTE AN OFFERING IN YOUR KIDS MINISTRY. PROVIDE AN OFFERING BOX SO YOUR KIDS CAN BRING THEIR TITHES AND OFFERINGS EACH WEEK. IT IS NOT TOO EARLY FOR THEM TO LEARN TO BE GIVERS.

RELEASE —

If there is extra time before parents arrive, retell the story, allow the kids to ask questions, reenact the Tithe and Offering Activity, or replay the ENGAGE game.





+2



+1



+3



+1



+4



+2



+1



+3



+2

