

Widow's Offering - Older Elementary

Mark 12:38-44

November 17, 2024

GATHER/ Opening Conversation

Opening Lesson Activity

Supplies – White board and markers

Say: Let's think about and finish this statement. "If I had a million dollars, I would..." Write their answers on the white board and encourage them to ask one another why they chose what they did.

Write the kids responses on the white board.

Say: I have a feeling we could talk about a million dollars for a long time. Let's talk about giving and receiving. **Ask:** What was the best thing you received this week? (grade, extra recess, unexpected letters in the mail, etc.). What was the worst thing you received this week? (bad news, bad grades, trouble at school, broken toy, etc.)

It's good to know each other's weeks so that we can better understand each other and give each other a little encouragement.

Let's think about another sentence for you to finish. "If I had a dollar, I would..." *Give each kid a chance to share.* It's easy to think of what to do with a million dollars, but just one dollar doesn't seem like much. Today we're going to learn that whether it's one dollar or a million dollars, Jesus welcomes all we can give.

Let's pray.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

Open our hearts and our minds that we may receive your grace in all that we learn today.

Amen.

Open the Bible

Pass out one index card per kid.

Have kids work together to brainstorm possessions they would depend upon daily.

Have kids individually list their top 5 on their cards.

Say: Today's story is in the book of Mark.

[YouTube Video](#) (start at about 1 minute – after the recap on previous lessons)

Ask: Who did Jesus say gave the most in this story? How do you think the rich people felt after Jesus said these words?

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Activate Faith

The following activities will depend on your group. If it is a larger group with several younger kids, it can be split, and activities can be done separately. Read through them and decide what works best for your group.

1. Gifts Charade – Activity

Kids learn about different kinds of gifts and act out their gifts for each other. They will remember that Jesus welcomes all that they have to give.

Supplies: *pieces of paper, pencils or pens, basket*

Instructions:

We're learning today that Jesus welcomes all that we can give. Each of you has many gifts that you can offer God. Gifts don't just involve money. Gifts can also be things we own or talents we have or time we can give. God is glad when we give, and God welcomes whatever we offer. Hand out paper and pens or pencils. **Write on the paper one gift you have that you can give to God. You can write additional gifts on other cards if you want.** Allow time for the kids to write. Help them brainstorm ideas if needed.

One person is going to draw a card from the basket and act out that gift for the whole class. He or she may choose one partner to help if desired. The rest of us will try to guess what the gift is.

End the activity by holding up the offering basket and giving thanks to God for the gifts the kids have to offer. **Thank you, God, for the gifts you have given us. Thanks for helping us to offer them back to you. Amen.**

2. Origami Coin Box – Craft

Kids make an origami box to collect spare change they find or receive during the week to donate. They will remember that in God's eyes, even little offerings are great. God uses what we have to give. (There will also be boxes to decorate if kids prefer that).

Supplies: various square sheets of paper.

Say: Here's another way something little can be transformed into something big. Origami is often called the art of paper folding, because you start with a square of paper and can fold it into hundreds of different shapes. Let's start with a simple box shape today.

Instructions:

- Follow the attached instructions to make the origami box.

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- You can also use a small gift box as a place to collect coins. Decorate it as desired.
- Decide where to give your money to once you have collected some.

Closing Conversation

The story of the Widow's Offering has really got us thinking about giving. And the story has been a great reminder that God welcomes all we give.

Extra Activities

In person kids will be working on the Christmas play.

Sermon4Kids – [Word Search](#)