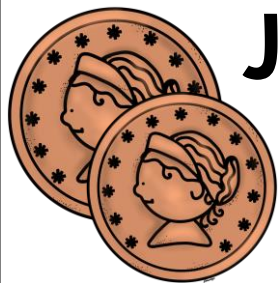


EXPLORING GOD'S WORD

JESUS SEES A WIDOW'S OFFERING

A BIBLE LESSON FOR KIDS





JESUS SEES A WIDOW'S OFFERING

This packet was designed to be an easy way to teach foundational Bible stories to kids in first, second, and third grades. Each lesson in this series is structured the same and can be taught in about 40 minutes!

Step One: Read or watch the Bible story.

Gather your group together and read the story of Jesus Sees a Widow's Offering from your children's Bible.

Rather watch it? Many animated Bible stories are available for free on YouTube. Search "Jesus Sees a Widow's Offering Bible Story for Kids" in the YouTube search bar. Be sure to watch it fully before showing it to your class to be sure it's appropriate.

Background Information:

This Bible story immediately follows a story where Jesus warns his disciples not to be impressed by the outward appearance of people. Jesus points out that the religious leaders liked to draw attention to themselves (Mark 12:38-40). They wore flowing robes. They had important seats at banquets and in the synagogues. They were entitled and did not treat widows properly.

Then Jesus brought his disciples to sit by the treasury in the temple. The rich people in this story gave large sums of money. It wasn't hard for them to give these large sums because they still had money left to buy expensive things. The poor widow in this story gave two small coins. This was all that she had, yet she wanted to offer it to God.

How much did the widow give?

The coins the widow gave were the smallest Roman coins. They would have been worth less than a cent.

What can we learn from this story?

This story tells us that what matters most is the attitude of our hearts when we give. The poor widow gave quietly and she had an attitude of worship. She wasn't giving to draw attention to herself or make herself look important. She was giving because she loved God and trusted Him to care for her needs.

Something else we can learn from this story is that even the small gifts matter to God. We don't have to wait until we have a large gift to give to God. God cares about the attitude of our hearts.

Step Two: Explore the story.

After reading or watching the story, use the retell the story worksheet to retell the main parts of today's story. This can be done individually or in small groups. Don't want to print it out? Try mapping the story together on a piece of large paper or a whiteboard.

Jesus Sees a Widow's Offering: Quickly map out the 4 main parts of the Story.

- Jesus goes into the temple
- People throw large sums of money into the treasury
- A widow puts in two small coins
- Jesus teaches his disciples a lesson

Then, talk through the discussion questions as a group.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	
QUESTION #1 What did the widow put into the treasury? How was it different than what others were giving?	QUESTION #2 How did Jesus respond when he saw what the widow put into the treasury?
QUESTION #3 What do you think it means to be a "cheerful giver?"	QUESTION #4 What can we learn from this story?



JESUS SEES A WIDOW'S OFFERING



Step Three: Set up coin activity stations.

Coin Stations

Before you begin: Print out the station signs, coin estimation slips, and paper envelope templates. Gather materials for the various stations and set them all up. These materials include paper, crayons, coins, buckets, painter's tape, glue, scissors, chocolate coins, and a jar filled with a couple of handfuls of coins.

Complete each station one at a time or set up all four simultaneously and rotate small groups through each one.

Station One: Coin Toss Challenge

Use painter's tape to mark a line on the floor. Place a bucket a few feet away from the tape line. Students will line up and take turns tossing coins into the bucket. Depending on how many students you have, you might need to divide them into groups so students can have multiple turns tossing coins.

Station 2: Coin Rubbings

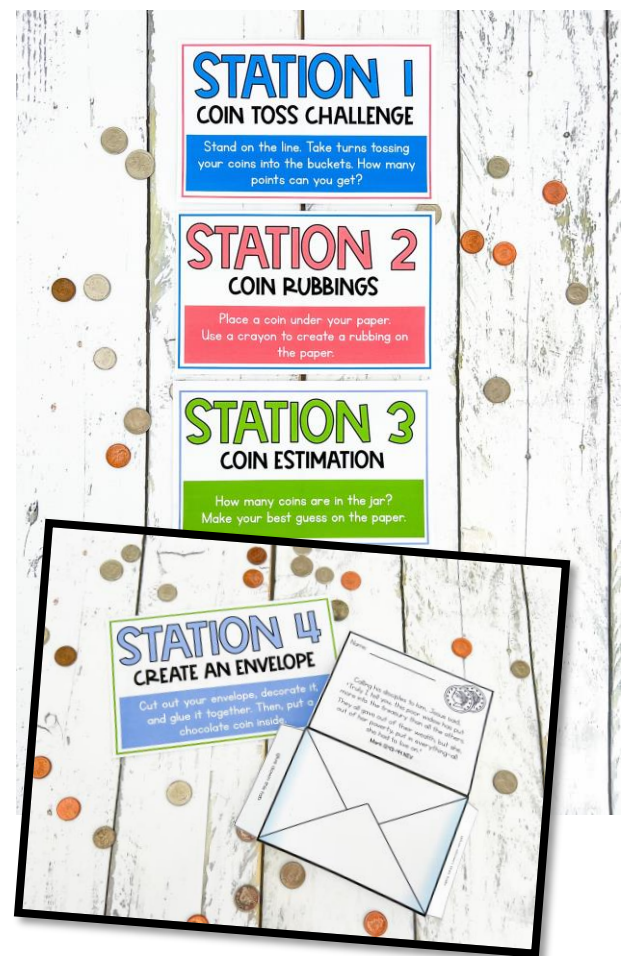
Give students blank paper, crayons, and coins of various denominations. Students will place the coin under the paper. Using a crayon, color on the paper, and the coin outlines will appear on the paper.

Station 3: Coin Estimation

Put several handfuls of coins into a jar and have your kids estimate (guess) the number of coins and the total value of the coins in the jar. Have students write their estimations on the provided slip of paper. At the end of the lesson, the child with the closest guess is the winner.

Station 4: Make a Paper Coin Envelope

Use the paper template to construct a simple coin envelope. Give each child a chocolate coin to put into their envelope.



Step Four: Finish with the take-home worksheet.

The 'Jesus Sees a Widow's Offering' coloring page is the perfect way to wrap up the lesson and create a take-home page that includes caregivers in what you have learned. Students will color a picture, write down their memory verse, and add the key takeaway (a "big idea") from the story.

Memory verse suggestion from the story:

...God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7b (NIV)

Big idea suggestion: Giving humbly and joyfully is an act of worship.



JESUS SEES A WIDOW'S OFFERING

Name: _____

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

QUESTION #1

What did the widow put into the treasury?

How was it different than what others were giving?

QUESTION #2

How did Jesus respond when he saw what the widow put into the treasury?

QUESTION #3

What do you think it means to be a “cheerful giver?”

QUESTION #4

What can we learn from this story?

STATION 1

COIN TOSS CHALLENGE

Stand on the line. Take turns tossing your coins into the buckets. How many points can you get?

STATION 2

COIN RUBBINGS

Place a coin under your paper.
Use a crayon to create a rubbing on the paper.

STATION 3

COIN ESTIMATION

How many coins are in the jar?
Make your best guess on the paper.

STATION 4

CREATE AN ENVELOPE

Cut out your envelope, decorate it,
and glue it together. Then, put a
chocolate coin inside.



_____ 'S COIN ESTIMATION

I think there are _____ coins in the jar.

I think the jar is worth \$_____.



_____ 'S COIN ESTIMATION

I think there are _____ coins in the jar.

I think the jar is worth \$_____.



_____ 'S COIN ESTIMATION

I think there are _____ coins in the jar.

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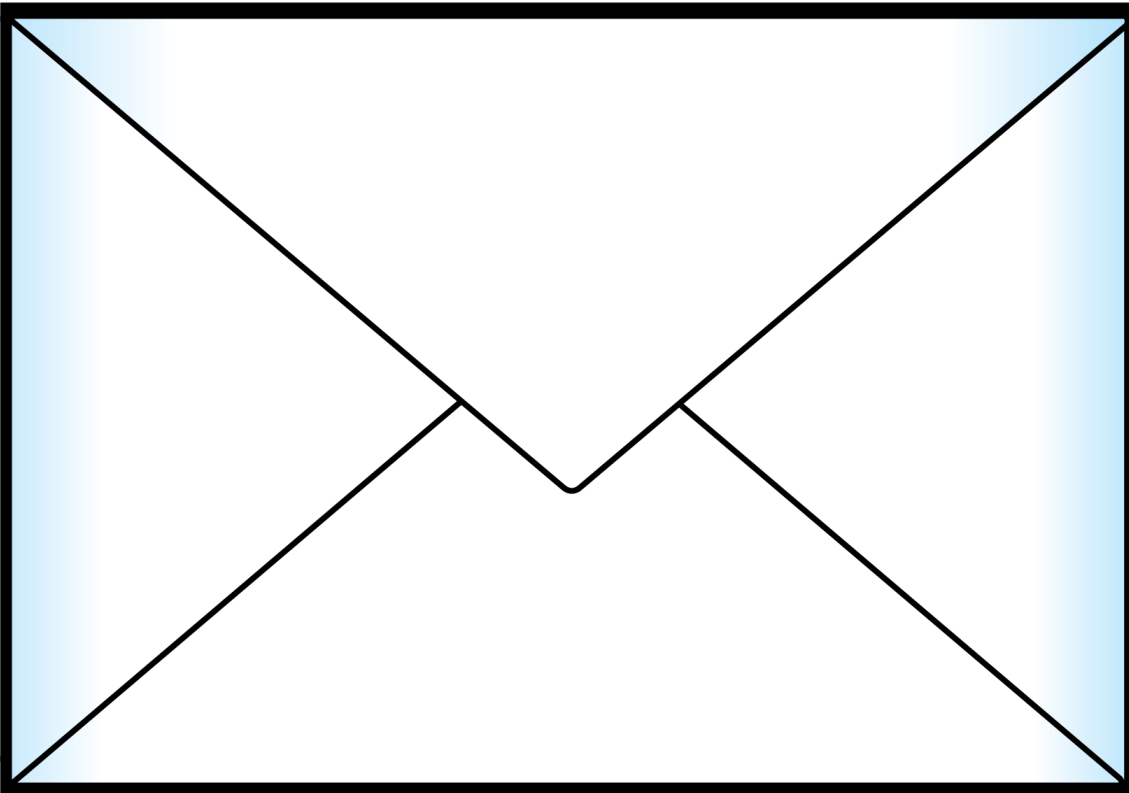
_____ 'S COIN ESTIMATION

I think there are _____ coins in the jar.

I think the jar is worth \$_____.

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glue down this tab



Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said,
 “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put
 more into the treasury than all the others.
 They all gave out of their wealth; but she,
 out of her poverty, put in everything—all
 she had to live on.”

Mark 12:43-44 NIV



Name: _____

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And he called unto him his disciples, and saith
unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this
poor widow hath cast more in, than all they
which have cast into the treasury:
For all they did cast in of their abundance;
but she of her want did cast in all that she
had, even all her living.

Mark 12:43-44 KJV



Name: _____

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MEMORIZE THIS:

THE BIG IDEA

What does this story teach us about God?

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MEMORIZE THIS:

...God loves a
cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7b NIV

THE BIG IDEA

What does this story teach us about God?

Giving humbly
and joyfully is
an act of
worship.

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