

# Jesus Notices a Widow's Giving

Mark 12:41-44

Your 5- and 6-year-olds are sometimes the most generous people on the planet. Other times, though, they want to be first in line, have the most choices, or get to take the last snack. Just like people of all ages, kids this age can struggle with giving. That's why the example of the widow who gave so much is important for kids to learn about. As they see how she gave so much when she had so little, they'll grow in their ability to give as well. Use this lesson to help children learn to give to God.




► **Bible Point**  
Give to God.

### Key Verse

"And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will learn to give to God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Getting Started</b></p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Welcoming Song</b></p> <p>Sing or listen to praises for God.</p>	<p>CD player</p> <p><b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Key Verse Activity</b></p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>What's Most Important?</b></p> <p>Talk about items that are important to kids.</p>	<p>Bible, a collection of items or photos that represent things important in kids' lives</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Bible Exploration</b></p> <p><i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Theo's News</b></p> <p>Find out what a coin has to do with the Bible.</p>	<p>Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, quarter, CD player</p> <p><b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	<p>Put the quarter inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.</p>
	<p><b>Bible Time: The Widow</b></p> <p>Hear the account of the widow's generosity.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, envelope, tape, crayons, scissors</p> <p><b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Poor Woman's Offering" poster, coin cutouts</p> 	<p>Cut the slit in the poster, and cut apart the coins. Behind the poster, tape an open envelope by the slit. Tape the top of the poster to the wall.</p>

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Coin Collection</b> Collect crayon-rubbed coin pictures.</p>	My Bible Playground, pencils, coins, crayons	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p><b>Center 2: Banana Coins</b> Cut bananas into “coin” snacks.</p>	½ banana per child, paper plates, plastic knives, bowl, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: Coin Twirl</b> Give their best effort as they play a game.</p>	table, 1 quarter or half dollar for every 2 children	
	<p><b>Center 4: Bank on It</b> Make a “stained glass” bank.</p>	newspaper, small jars, liquid glue, paintbrushes, tissue paper in various colors	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	My Bible Playground	
	<p><b>Coin Prayer</b> Drop coins in an offering basket.</p>	offering basket, pennies	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.





## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Glad You're Here"  
(track 12), "Love is  
Patient and Kind"  
(1 Corinthians 13:4-5a)  
(track 3)

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Welcoming Song



**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 children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead the kids in singing "Glad You're Here" (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of "The Old Gray Mare." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



**Glad you're here;**

**Come, sing and pray with me,** (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

**Sing and pray with me,** (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

**Sing and pray with me.** (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

**Glad you're here;**

**Come, sing and pray with me.**

**We're in God's house today!** (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

**We're in God's house today!** (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

**We're in God's house today!** (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

**Glad you're here;**

**Come, sing and pray with me.** (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

**We're in God's house today!** (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: **Today we'll learn that it's good to ► GIVE TO GOD. Let's give God our best voices as we sing praise to God!**

Play "Love Is Patient and Kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) (track 3 on the CD). Invite children to hold hands and sway to the music.

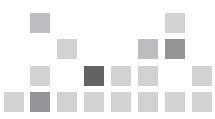


**Love is patient and kind.**

**Love is not jealous**

**Or boastful**

**Or proud or rude.**



Love is patient and kind.  
Love is not jealous  
Or boastful  
Or proud or rude.  
Love is patient and kind.

Love is patient and kind.  
Love is not jealous  
Or boastful  
Or proud or rude.  
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Love is patient and kind.

“Love Is Patient and Kind” (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **God gives us so much love and patience. There are so many wonderful ways for us to ► GIVE TO GOD.**

**2** KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

## What’s Most Important?

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Philippians 2:11, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from Philippians 2:11 says, “And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Let’s say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the shortened Key Verse aloud with you: **“Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2:11).**

Say: **When we say someone is Lord, we mean that person is the most important person of all! To say that Jesus is Lord means that Jesus is more important than anything else. Let’s do an activity to help us learn more about what it means that Jesus is Lord.**



### What’s Most Important? Supplies

Bible  
a collection of items or photos that represent things important in kids’ lives





Gather kids in a circle around a collection of objects that symbolize the activities and interests important in kids' lives. This collection might include sports equipment, movies, video games, books, and pictures from catalogs and magazines of popular cultural or cartoon figures.

One at a time, have kids choose an item from the collection. Have children each explain what's important about the item they chose. Affirm kids' interests in these items and the fun they associate with them. After each child finishes, have the group say, "[Name of item] is important, but Jesus Christ is Lord."

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Afterward, lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What is the most important thing in your life besides Jesus?
- Why is Jesus more important than anything else?
- What can you do to show others that Jesus Christ is Lord of your life?

Say: **All the things we talked about are fun or important parts of our lives. But Jesus is the most important! One way we can show Jesus that he is Lord is by giving him our best—like a person we'll hear about in the Bible today. When we ► GIVE TO GOD, we show him how important he is to us.**

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Theo's News

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!**

Have the children sit in a circle, and begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about the Bible today.

**Theo:** I hid it in the Surprise Box.

**Teacher:** Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

*(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box and have the kids pass the quarter around the circle so the rest of the group can see it up close. Give children time to guess what they might learn from the Bible today.)*

**Teacher:** Friends, when have you seen quarters?

*(Pause for kids to answer your question.)*

**Teacher:** Theo, why did you hide this quarter in the Surprise Box?

#### Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box  
will do)

Theo puppet  
quarter

CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track  
4)

#### Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the quarter inside  
the Surprise Box, and  
hide the box where it's  
easily accessible.

**Theo:** I was hoping if I put a quarter into the box, I'd get a soda pop out, like those machines in hotels!

**Teacher:** What? Dogs don't even drink soda!

**Theo:** Oh, I'm just kidding you. I know dogs don't drink soda.

**Teacher:** Let's find out about a woman in the Bible who used coins to give God her best! She showed us how it's good to ► **GIVE TO GOD.**

**Theo:** Have fun, boys and girls!

**Teacher:** 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.

## Bible Time: The Widow

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather kids in a circle around the poster. Open your Bible to Mark 12, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **It's important that we ► GIVE TO GOD because he deserves everything! Let's learn about a poor woman (motion to the poster) who gave to God, too.**

Play "Best Efforts" (track 13 on the CD), and place two coins in the slit on the poster when the CD says the poor woman put in her coins.

When the track is over, set out the crayons, and give each child a paper coin.

Say: **Draw on your coins one thing you want to give God—it could be your best drawing to hang on the wall, it could be last month's allowance, or it could be welcoming someone with a smile.**

After kids are finished drawing, have them each say the Bible Point and tell their ideas. Then have kids place their coins through the slit on the poster.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some things besides coins that we can give to God?**
- **Tell about what you drew that you could give to God.**

Say: **It doesn't matter how much we give. What's important is that we ► GIVE TO GOD like the poor woman gave her two coins.**



### Bible Time: The Widow Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- envelope
- tape
- crayons
- scissors

#### Teacher Pack

- CD: "Best Efforts" (track 13)
- "Poor Woman's Offering" poster
- coin cutouts

### Bible Time: The Widow Supplies

Cut the slit in the poster, and cut apart the coins. Behind the poster, tape an open envelope by the slit. Tape the top of the poster to the wall.



### Center 1: Coin Collection Supplies

My Bible Playground  
pencils  
coins  
crayons

### Center 1: Coin Collection Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson  
4 pages from each  
My Bible Playground  
student book.

### Center 2: Banana Coins Supplies

½ banana per child  
paper plates  
plastic knives  
bowl  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

**ALLERGY  
ALERT**

## 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:

## Coin Collection

### What You'll Do

Distribute the Lesson 4 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers.

Say: **The woman in the Bible gave everything she had to God. We'll see what these kids are giving to God. But first, let's rub crayons on some coins.**

Help children each place a coin under their student pages in the appropriate areas. Then have children rub the flat side of a crayon over their pages so the image of the coin shows up. You may need to remove the paper on the crayons for kids to do the rubbing.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

#### Ask:

- What are the kids doing in each of these pictures?
- What can you do to give to God at school? at home? at church? in your neighborhood?

Say: **We can ► GIVE TO GOD wherever we are—at home, school, church, or in our neighborhood. We can be kind and loving. We can be helpful and happy. And we can tell others about Jesus. God loves a cheerful giver! That means that God loves it when we give to others with a smile on our face and a happy heart.**

### CENTER 2:

## Banana Coins

### What You'll Do

Have kids clean their hands. Distribute a paper plate and a plastic knife to each child.





Say: **We learned about a woman who gave two small coins as a gift to God. It wasn't a lot of money, but it was all she had. Let's give part of our snack away to learn what that was like. The woman knew that it's good to ► GIVE TO GOD—and that's what she did!**

Cut 1 inch off each banana half and distribute the pieces to the children. Have kids cut their banana into coin shapes.

Say: **Put two coin-shaped banana slices into the bowl like the woman who put her two coins into the offering box.**

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was easy or hard about giving your banana slices away?**
- **Tell about a time you gave something that was hard to give away.**

Say: **The woman had only two small coins, but she wanted to give to God. She gave God all she had. She knew that God would always take care of her. God will take care of us and give us what we need, too. God gives us so much, and that's why we ► GIVE TO GOD.**

Give children the banana “coins” from the bowl and the rest of their banana halves. Encourage kids to cut and count their pieces. Invite a child to say a prayer of thanks before kids eat their snack.

■ **CENTER 3:**

**Coin Twirl**

**What You'll Do** ■■■■

Say: **In today's Bible passage we've learned about a woman who gave everything she had to Jesus—just two small coins! We're going to play a game with our coins and learn more about giving to God.**

Form pairs, and have children sit at opposite sides of a table, facing their partner. Give each pair a coin. Show kids how to twirl a coin by holding the coin perpendicular on the tabletop with the index finger of one hand, and flicking it with the fingers of the other hand.

Say: **Be patient with yourself and do your best to keep the coins spinning on the table.**

Have partners take turns twirling the coin. Each time a child twirls the coin, have him or her say: ► **“GIVE TO GOD!”** Collect the coins when kids have finished.

**Center 3: Coin Twirl Supplies**

- .....
- table
  - 1 quarter or half dollar for every 2 children





### Center 4: Bank on It Supplies

newspaper  
small jars  
liquid glue  
paintbrushes  
tissue paper in various  
colors

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you do in this game to do your best?
- What do you have to do in order to give God your best?

Say: **When we ► GIVE TO GOD, we can give him our best no matter where we are or what we're doing. At school we can work hard as we learn; at home we can listen to our parents; at church we can worship with all our hearts; and in our neighborhoods, we can tell people about God. We have lots of ways to ► GIVE TO GOD!**

## ■ CENTER 4:

# Bank on It

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Cover a table with newspaper, and set out small jars, tissue paper in various colors, paintbrushes, and glue.

Say: **We're going to make banks to put money in by tearing tissue paper into small pieces and gluing the pieces to the outside of the jars.**

Have kids help tear the tissue paper and then each brush glue all over the outside of their jars. Show kids how to press the small pieces of tissue paper to the sides of the jar. Then set the jars aside to dry.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **The coins the poor woman gave to God were everything to her. What can you give to God that means a lot to you?**

Say: **Take your banks home to help you remember the poor woman who did her best and gave all she had to live on to God. Save money in your banks, and then give to the church or to some people you know who need it. Remember, ► GIVE TO GOD because he gives to us.**

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to the 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 we ► GIVE TO GOD. Choose one of these Daily Challenges as a way to ► GIVE TO GOD this week.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Share your lunch with a friend at school, and tell him or her that we ► GIVE TO GOD.**
2. **Hug each of your family members, and say that we ► GIVE TO GOD.**
3. **Help your mom or dad clean the kitchen one evening—and do it with a smile!**

Say: **If you want to share your lunch with a friend, circle choice number 1. If you want to hug your family members, circle choice number 2. If you want to help clean the kitchen, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. 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!

### Coin Prayer

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Put an offering basket in the center of the circle, and give each child a penny.

Say: **Let's pray and tell God that we love him and that we'll give to him this week. We'll go around the circle. When it's your turn, drop your penny in the offering basket, and tell God how you will give to him this week.** Have each child pray: Dear God, I love you so much. I will give to you by \_\_\_\_\_.

Some examples are "being nice to my younger brother," "asking my friend to church," "giving snacks to my neighbor," "singing nicely at church," or "saying my prayers each night." When everyone has prayed, close the prayer as follows:



#### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

#### Coin Prayer Supplies

offering basket  
pennies



Pray: **God, we love you very much. We are happy to give you our best, just like the poor woman who gave you her coins did. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage 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](http://group.com/digital).

