

The Widow's Coins

Bible Verse

Teach me your way, LORD, so that I can walk in your truth. Psalm 86:11

Did You Know?

The church is different from many organizations in the respect that there are no dues to pay in order to belong. There is no entry fee to be submitted before you may enter the building, use the facilities, or participate in the programs. Instead, we each give what we can, offering to God a portion of what we have received. When Jesus talked about the offering of the poor woman who gave all she had (Mark 12:43-44), he affirmed that the attitude of giving is more important than the amount that we give.

There is a temptation to read into Jesus' words about the widow's offering a commentary that the offering of the rich people was not important. However, Jesus never said that. After all, then as now, the church required money to meet expenses. Rather, Jesus was addressing the attitude of giving.

In giving all that she had to live on, the widow demonstrated her trust in God. Obviously, she believed that God would provide a way to meet her needs, so she could make her offering to God.

Children often do not have money of their own, but are dependent on their parents for the money they bring as offering each week. Those children who do receive an allowance may not have very much money to give. The story of the widow's coins has a reassuring message for children. This poor woman gave what she could and Jesus recognized her gift as a generous one. It is the attitude of giving that is important. Help your children to understand that they can give generously, regardless of how much they have to give. Let your children know they have other things to offer besides money.

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 Sunday school is definitely a gift of time, talent, presence, and witness! Thank you for the offering you give each week.

Bible Story

Luke 21:1-4

Anchor Point

Jesus teaches us how
God wants us to live.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- Welcome
- Kids Stuff:
Offering Box
- Exploration Station:
Valuable Coins
- DIVE DEEPER:**
- Bible Story Time
- Experience the Story:
The Widow's Coins
- Look It Up!
- My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- Life Connection:
Weights and
Measures in the Bible
- Learn & Serve with
the Deep Blue Kids:
Mission Offering Box
- Craft Activity:
Coin Rubbings
- Spiritual Practice:
Giving

WORSHIP:

- Gather, Sing, and Sign
- Praise and Reflect





JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



- Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.
 - Play “Jesus, Teach Me” and greet each child as they arrive.
 - Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: OFFERING BOX

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 9-10, glue sticks, paper slips, pencils, scissors

- Distribute the Offering Box.
- Let children cut out and assemble the offering box.
- Encourage them to draw pictures of the things that are most valuable to them.
- Direct children to glue their pictures in the offering plate.
- Invite volunteers to share.

EXPLORATION STATION: VALUABLE COINS

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 30, plastic coins or chips (optional), permanent markers (optional)

ASK: If you could create your own money or currency, what would it look like? What words or pictures would you place on it? How much would it be worth?

- Photocopy and distribute Valuable Coins or plastic coins and markers.
- Direct children to create their own coins. Encourage them to be creative.
- Invite volunteers to share.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 4, then watch video.

ASK: What did the poor widow do? What did Jesus say? How did the rich people respond?



Make different kinds of coins available for children to look at as they create their own.



EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE WIDOW'S COINS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 4, p. 2; bucket; coins

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Luke 21:1-4, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Assign the five parts and present the story. Let class read part for People in the Church.
- As the story is read, drop coins into the bucket.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

SAY: This story is also in the Gospel of Mark. Let's read it together.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles Mark 12:41-44.
- Compare and contrast the Scripture.

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

ASK: What is the most important thing to you? Now imagine having to give that up. What would that be like? What would it feel like?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: WEIGHTS AND MEASURES IN THE BIBLE

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Weights and Measures in the Bible.

LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: MISSION OFFERING BOX

Supplies: box (small), crayons or markers

SAY: We will learn about a new mission project when the Deep Blue Kids arrive at their next destination.

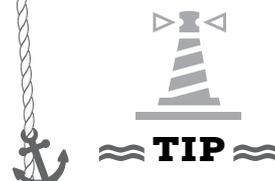
ASK: Where do you think they are going?

SAY: Let's make an offering box. We will use the box to collect money for our next mission project.

- Encourage children to decorate the box.



Review this unit's Bible stories by playing the trivia game on the Deep Blue Adventure DVD.



You can find more information about this in the NEW DEEP BLUE KIDS BIBLE DICTIONARY! You can order it online at: www.cokesbury.com. ISBN: 9781501840616.



CRAFT ACTIVITY: COIN RUBBINGS

Supplies: different kinds of coins, crayons, paper, pencils

ASK: Do you think we can make art with coins?

SAY: We can rub them, trace them, or sketch them as an art project.

- Demonstrate how to rub a crayon over a paper-covered coin to create a rubbing.
- Direct children to do a coin rubbing, trace around the coins, or try to draw a coin.
- Encourage them to be creative!

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: GIVING

SAY: In the Bible story today, the poor widow gave all that she had.

ASK: What can you give?

SAY: This week, practice giving back. Find ways you can serve others, give money to an important organization or to the church, or give away things you no longer use or need. Just like the widow, you can give too!



WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Class Stuff—p. 27, Leader Guide—p. 85, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)



- Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse. Review the Unit 1 Bible verse American Sign Language, using page 85 as a guide. Photocopy that page for children.
- Distribute songbooks. Play the song “Jesus, Teach Me” one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
 - Teach children the Unit 1 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 14 & 19, 27; envelope of poster pieces; tape

 Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse. Display on the wall the lighthouse under construction.

SAY: Today we will learn the last part of the Lord's Prayer.

- Read the final part of the prayer.
- Invite a child to place the last piece of the lighthouse on the wall.
- Read the Lord's Prayer together.

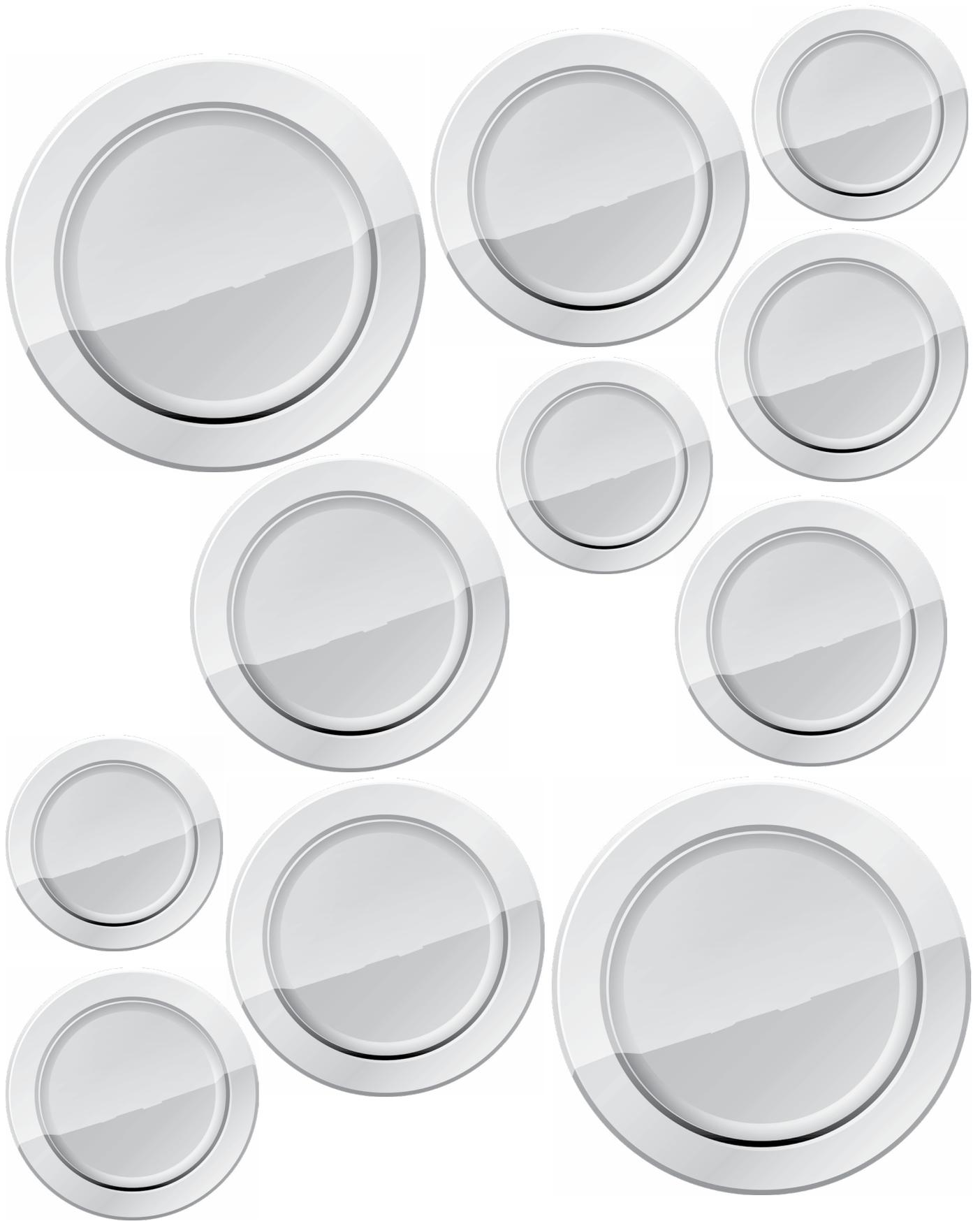
SAY: Great job! You've learned the Lord's Prayer.

- Invite children to name people or situations they'd like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, help us to give all we can to you and to others. Amen.



Exploration Station: Valuable Coins



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