

### LIFE POINT

Jesus taught that when we give, we worship and honor God.

# JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GIVING

JESUS



## LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Jesus taught that worship is focused on God.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Mark 12:41-44

## UNIT VERSE

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor.

Luke 4:18 (KJV)

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

Luke 4:18 (CSB)

## WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE

Mark 12:44

## SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

March 29



## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Franc, pound, euro, peso, dollar, yen, birr, ringgit—the list of the world’s currencies goes on and on. In fact, there are over 160 different currencies circulating today. The most traded currency in the world is the U.S. dollar with the euro being the second. The accumulation of money or the lack thereof has contributed to the rise and fall of many nations, not to mention individuals. It is no wonder Jesus mentions money so many times.

As the Master Teacher, Jesus incorporated life experiences and tangible objects to teach people. One such teachable moment in the temple served as an object lesson for His disciples. While Jesus sat across from the temple treasury, He watched “how” people dropped money into the treasury.

Although the treasury could refer to a room with some way to deposit the temple treasures and store them there, this treasury may have been 1 of 13 trumpet-shaped collection boxes with narrow openings at the top for deposits. At the very least, temple offerings were hard to miss; on the other hand, one could make a show of his gift. Jesus observed that the rich deposited large sums. In contrast, a poor widow gave two small coins. In that culture the woman likely had no hope for a major reversal of fortune. Her two coins were *lepta*, the smallest coin in circulation. Together the two coins were worth only a fraction of a penny.

At this point Jesus gathered His disciples for an object lesson. He called their attention to what had just happened in plain, but hidden view. The woman’s gift was greater, literally, than all of the other gifts the people gave. Jesus explained that the others gave what they did not need, or out of their “leftover” money. He concluded for His disciples that although this widow was poor, she gave everything she had to live on. By doing so she committed her very livelihood, her survival, in trust to God.

Which is easier for you to give to God: money or time? Ask God to make you generous with all He has entrusted to you.

How can you help the kids in your group understand that their small gifts are enough for God to use in big ways? How will you help them be generous and use their gifts to tell others about God?



## BIBLE STORY

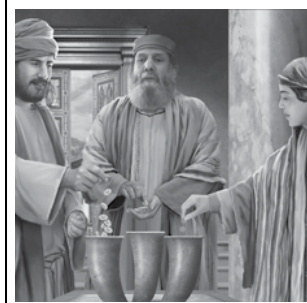
### JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GIVING

Jesus sat in the temple across from where people gave their offerings. He watched how the crowd put their money into the treasury. Jesus knew some of the people were very rich. He watched the rich ones put in large amounts of money. Jesus knew they were giving what was left over after they bought everything they needed and even a lot of what they just wanted. It was not hard for the rich people to give this much money. They would not even miss it!

Jesus kept watching as a woman approached the offering place. This woman was a widow. She did not have a husband with money to take care of her. She did not have much money at all, but she dropped two small coins into the offering. They were not worth very much, but they were all she had.

Jesus called His disciples to Him. He explained to them, “This woman has put in more than all the others who are giving. These other people have only given what was extra, what they didn’t need. This woman has given everything she owns. This is all she has to buy the things she needs. She has given the most!”

— BASED ON MARK 12:41-44



### REVIEW QUESTIONS

- › What was Jesus watching in the temple? *(Jesus was watching people bring their offerings to church.)*
- › What did the rich people put in the offering? *(a lot of money)*
- › What did the woman put in the offering? *(two small coins)*
- › Why didn’t the woman have more money? *(She was a widow and didn’t have a husband to take care of her.)*
- › Why did Jesus say the woman put in more money than the other people? *(She gave all she had.)*
- › Name some other ways, besides giving money, that people can give to God. *(Answers may vary, but should include that people can give time, help, and things they own.)*



## PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- › Kids Activity Pages
- › Printables: “Books of the Bible Chart”
- › small coin purse
- › penny, nickel, dime and quarter—Place the coins in the purse.

- › Invite a child to reach into the purse and draw out a coin without looking at it. Instruct him to lay it flat in the palm of his hand.
- › If the coin is heads up, the child will lead the group to recite the books in a division (see below). If the coin is tails up, the child will call a book from that New Testament division, and kids will find the book in their Bibles.
  - Penny—Gospel division (Matthew—John)
  - Nickel—History division (Acts)
  - Dime—Paul’s Letters division (Romans—Philemon)
  - Quarter—Prophecy division (Revelation)
- › Give each child a turn to choose a coin from the coin purse.
- › If needed, suggest that kids use the chart on the back cover of their Kids Activity Pages or the “Books of the Bible Chart.”
- › Give each child a turn to choose a coin from the coin purse.

- › Pack Item 8: “What’s It Worth?”
- › Music
- › CD player
- › 2 gift bags—Place 6 “What’s It Worth?” cards in each bag.
- › **Option:** After a few rounds, form 2 teams, give each team a bag, and ask them to rank their 6 objects from least to most worth.
- › **Option:** “Jesus Taught About Giving” coloring page (Printables)



## INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

- › Form a circle and lead kids to pass the bags while music plays.
- › Pause the music. Lead the kids holding bags to each choose a card. The two kids must decide which of the two items pictured is worth more. (Tell the kids that the activity is just for fun and that no one knows for sure the correct answer.)
- › Announce kids’ answers, then place the cards back in the bags, and shake them to mix the cards.
- › Start the music and play again.
- › Guide the kids to name other items that they think are worth a lot of money. Then ask them to name some things that are worth only a small amount of money.
- › Invite kids to listen to how a widow honored God by how she gave.



## MISSIONS EMPHASIS

- › Printables: “Unit 1 Missions: Lesotho”—Print the missions story and the “Lesotho Photos.”

- › Review the Lesotho missions story with the kids.
- › Show the “Lesotho Photos” and help volunteers read the captions.
- › Play a memory game by naming items kids might need for a mission journey to a Lesotho village that has no electricity or other modern conveniences.
- › The first player begins: “I think I’ll pack a blanket.” The next player adds: “I think I’ll pack a blanket and a flashlight.” Continue the list until everyone participates or it becomes too lengthy to remember.
- › Encourage kids to pray sentence prayers for the Flora family and the Basotho people.



## STUDY THE BIBLE

- › Pack Items 1, 9: “Unit 1 Banner and Verse,” “Giving Review Cards”—Place the cards in an offering plate.
- › Teaching Picture 5
- › Music
- › Videos
- › paper plates (1 per child)
- › markers
- › 2 pennies
- › offering plate or something similar

**Option for Review:**  
Show the “Notebook Bible Story” video.

**Option for Life Action:**  
Show the “Mooseberry Life Application” video.

**Option for Unit Verse:**  
Teach the Weekly Bible Verse, Mark 12:44.

### 1. BIBLE STORY

- Remind the group that today’s Bible story is about a widow. A *widow* is a woman whose husband has died. In Bible times many widows were very poor.
- Open your Bible to Mark 12, display the Teaching Picture, and tell the Bible story.

### 2. REVIEW

- Show the offering plate.
- Explain that people at church usually put something in the plate, but today the kids will take out some things.
- Invite a volunteer to remove a “Giving Review Card” and read it.
- Direct the kids to stand and quietly tell the answer to two friends.
- Count to two and tell everyone to shout the answer. Then, choose another volunteer and continue.
- Play until kids answer all of the review questions.

### 3. LIFE ACTION

- Distribute paper plates and markers. Tell the kids to draw a happy face on one side of the plate and a sad face on the other side.
- Read examples of people giving offerings.
- Lead kids to show the happy face if they think the person was a cheerful giver or the sad face if the person was not a cheerful giver.
- Use these examples or make up your own:
  - › Jayla put part of her birthday money in the offering plate at church because she wanted others to hear about Jesus.

- › Mateo put a dollar in the offering plate because his mom told him he had to.
- › Hannah took the money her dad gave her for the offering and used it to buy a soda.
- › Jack saved his allowance to give to the missions offering.
- › Keshav did not want to put much money in the offering plate. He was saving to buy a video game.
- › Even though her parents did not give, Jillian wanted to worship God by giving an offering at church.
- Remind kids that Jesus gave His life to show His love for all people. Giving an offering is one way to worship and give thanks to God for sending Jesus to be the Savior.
- Pray and ask God to teach the kids to be happy givers who give because they want to worship and honor Him.

### 4. UNIT VERSE

- Sing “Jesus Teaches Us.”
- Guide discussion by asking: “How many coins did the widow give? Was that very much money? Why did Jesus say the widow gave more than the rich people?”
- Explain that Jesus is more concerned with the giver’s attitude than the amount of money he or she gives.
- Guide kids to find Luke 4:18 in their Bibles and read aloud the verse.
- Ask: “Which words in the verse best describe the widow?”
- Invite volunteers to say the verse from memory.



## LIVE IT OUT

### CHOICE 1

- › Kids Activity Pages
- › pencils
- › several different sizes and types of coins, including coins from other countries—Place the coins around the room.
- › paper
- › crayons
- › markers

### CHOICE 2

- › Bibles
- › large towels (1 for every 2–4 kids)
- › foam ball (1 for every 2–4 kids)
- › laundry basket

### CHOICE 1: COIN RUBBINGS

- Guide kids to work together to complete “Hidden Coins” on their Kids Activity Page.
- Talk about the Bible story.
- Ask: “How was the woman worshiping God as she gave?”
- Emphasize that the woman loved God and knew the importance of worshiping Him with everything she had.
- Invite the children to search the room for coins in the room.
- After kids find all the coins, take a little time to examine the different coins. Point out any special coins.
- Lead kids to use the coins to make coin rubbings.
- Distribute paper.
- Show kids how to place a coin on the table, place a paper on top of the coin, and use the side of a crayon to make a coin rubbing.
- Encourage the children to take turns with the different coins.
- At the bottom of their papers suggest that kids write *People worship God through giving!*
- Ask: “Was the widow’s offering much money? (no) Would an offering of two pennies pay for much today?”
- Suggest that a small offering might not be much, but if that is what someone had to give as a way to worship God, then God would see it as a very good gift.

### CHOICE 2: TOSS TO GIVE

- Form groups of two to four kids.
- Set a laundry basket in the middle of the room. Give each group a towel.
- Lead the groups to stand in a large circle around the basket.
- Direct each child to hold one corner or side of the towel.
- Place a ball on each towel.
- Remind kids that we should give money to God’s work as a way to worship and honor Him. Emphasize that God wants people to give so that others all around the world can learn more about Him.
- Invite kids to name a city, state, or country where God’s work takes place. Then lead kids to lower the towel and pop it up to toss the ball into the basket.
- Instruct kids to move to a different place in the room.
- Guide them to name a talent they have that they could use to help God’s work and toss the ball again.
- Encourage kids to move a third time and name something they have that could be used to help God’s work.
- Debrief the activity by encouraging kids to always think of how they can give their talents and things to serve and honor God.

### WRAP UP

- Explain that Jesus taught that worship is focused on God. The widow in today’s Bible story gave all she had because of her love for Him.
- Give kids One Conversation™ pages.