

LESSON 31

The Widow's Offering

LUKE 20:45 – 21:9



BIBLE TRUTH

THE LORD LOOKS INTO THE HEART OF OUR OFFERING

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 20:45—21:9 from the Scriptures or read story 109, “The Widow’s Offering,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

All That Glitters Is Not Gold

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ gold spray paint
- ✓ a grouping of everyday objects such as steel washers, an old sneaker, a toy figure, a wooden or rubber mallet (to be used like an auctioneer’s gavel)

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Compare the Testaments

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 31—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Faithful Widows

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Beware of the scribes—While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he warned the people about the teachers of the law. Jesus exposed their hypocrisy by showing how they took money from widows and then prayed long prayers to show off. This would have been a most serious charge. No wonder the Jewish rulers wanted to kill him; Jesus was exposing their hidden sin. Is it any wonder that the widow only had two small copper coins to her name?

Be like the widow—Jesus was sitting next to the offering box. He drew attention to a widow's offering of two small copper coins. One would think her offering was inconsequential and insignificant, but when we discover those two coins were all she had to live on, we see her great faith in giving it to God. The widow may not have had very much money, but she gave all she had, thereby revealing that she trusted God's provision. While the Pharisees were poised to kill Jesus, receiving his rebukes, the widow placed her life upon the mercy of God, receiving his commendation.

Even the temple will be destroyed—While Jesus looked at the heart of the widow, the disciples marveled at the outer beauty of the temple building. They failed to realize that the temple building was but a shadow designed to point to Christ. Christ stood as the presence of God in the midst of his people. The temple building would be destroyed but Christ is eternal.

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Mark's description of the widow's offering (Mark 12:41–44) contains an additional detail: Jesus purposefully "sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box." Having spoken against the hypocrisy of the teachers of the law who devour widows, now Jesus used a widow as an example of sincere faith.

Each of us has a choice to make. Will we be like the widow who entrusted her life to God or like the rich who trusted in their riches? Are we willing to entrust everything we have to God, or is our faith limited to that which does not cost us? Jesus knows what is in our hearts. He can see by our actions who or what we really worship. Jesus died on the cross to set us free from the love of money and replace it with love for him. When our hearts are changed by his grace, it is easy to give back to him because we trust him with our lives.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 20:45—21:9 from the Scriptures or read story 109, "The Widow's Offering," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

All That Glitters Is Not Gold

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ gold spray paint

- ✓ a grouping of everyday objects such as steel washers, an old sneaker, a toy figure, a wooden or rubber mallet (to be used like an auctioneer's gavel)

Before class, spray the items gold. Make sure you really give them a good coat of paint so that none of the old colors show through.

This object lesson illustrates that things are not always as they appear.

Place the items on a table and then play the role of an auctioneer. Explain to the class that you have some very valuable items for auction and that if they would like to bid on them you will work out payment with their parents. Hold up one of the items and say, "Will anyone start the bidding on this item? Look at it. It is really gold. How about four thousand dollars?"

Have another teacher object to the auction and try to explain that just because you paint something gold doesn't mean it's worth anything. They should then enlist the help of the class to explain to you that something worthless painted gold is still worthless underneath.

Lead the class in a discussion using the following questions:

- How are these gilded objects like the Pharisees' hearts in Luke 20:47?
(The Pharisees tried to look very spiritual by praying long prayers, but their hearts were full of greed.)
- What is the word we use to describe their behavior?
(hypocrisy)

Do children ever struggle with hypocrisy? (Yes. Sometimes a child will act one way around parents and another way around friends or classmates. Sometimes a child will act like he or she is a Christian around Christians, but inside, not really believe in Jesus.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Compare the Testaments

Have the class look up Isaiah 29:13–14 and read it out loud to the class. Then have them look up Matthew 15:7–9. The teacher should read Matthew 15:1 to show that Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees. Then the class can read Matthew 15:7–9 together. Ask them how the Matthew passage is similar to the Isaiah passage. (In Matthew 15 Jesus quotes Isaiah’s prophecy.)

Ask the children the following questions:

- **Can you think of areas where we act like hypocrites?**
(We can demand that our brothers and sisters share things with us but when it comes to sharing with them we might refuse. We say we are Christians because we live in Christian homes but we don’t really live for Jesus.)

- **Are we more like the Pharisees or more like the widow?**
(When left to ourselves, we can more often be like the Pharisees who want to be seen as special, great, and holy but inwardly are not.)

Point out to the class how amazingly the Old Testament and New Testament tell the same story. The prophets told of Jesus long before he lived on the earth.

WORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the WORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 31—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What is the widow putting into the offering?
(two small copper coins)

- What is the man putting into the offering?
(a whole bag of money)

- Who did Jesus say put in the greater offering?
(Jesus said the widow's offering was greater because she put in all that she had.)

- How can we tell the widow was trusting God by what she placed in the offering?
(Since she placed all that she had in the offering we can tell she was trusting God. She would have no money left to even buy food.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Faithful Widows

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

Compare the faith of the widow in Luke 21 with the faith of the widow in 1 Kings 17:9–16. Read both stories and ask the class to compare them. How are they similar? What can we learn from the widows about faith and placing our trust in God. Then ask the class to make a list of things they need to trust God for. They should mention both material things like food and shelter, as well as spiritual things like their salvation and grace to turn away from sin. Write their suggestions on the board then ask for a few volunteers to pray that the class would place their trust in Jesus.

LESSON 31 - THE WIDOW'S OFFERING

