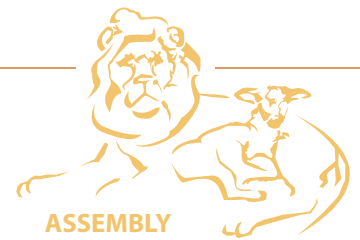


THE WIDOW'S OFFERING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 21:1-4



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS**THE RICH AND THE POOR****Supplies**

a jar of loose change

Divide the class into two teams, "rich" and "poor". Give each person on the poor team two small coins. Give a handful of change to each person on the rich team. Place the jar in the center of the room and have them act out the parts of the widow and the rich man. Watch what happens. See how much the rich men have left over.

Draw them out about how they felt. Some of the poor might feel like they did not want to give away the copper coins. Some of the rich may have wanted to, or actually did give all they had as well. Ask the children how they felt and why. Help them connect behavior with our hearts. Point out to them that following God and trusting Christ gives you faith to give. Trusting money makes you want to hold on to what you have.

THE WIDOW'S OFFERING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 21:1-4

GIVE TWO SMALL COPPER COINS

Supplies

shiny new pennies
(prepare two pennies in a plastic re-sealable bag for each child)

At the beginning of class, give each child a bag with two pennies inside. Tell them the pennies are theirs to keep. Ask them what they would like to do with their coins.

Using a felt board, retell the story from Luke 21:1-4. After you are done ask them about the sacrifice of the widow and why her offering was so special. Remind them that Jesus pointed out the widow's offering to demonstrate her true devotion in contrast to that of the rich men.

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Each of us has a choice to make. Will we be like the widow who entrusted her life to God or will we be like the rich men who trusted in their riches? Jesus is present and aware of 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 put a love for Him in our hearts instead. When our hearts are changed by His grace, it is easy to give back to Him because we trust Him with our lives.

