

THE WIDOW'S OFFERING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 21:1-4



The STORY

Read about Jesus teaching His disciples about the widow's offering in Luke 21:1-4.

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- Who are the different characters in this story? (The different characters in the story are the poor widow, the rich, Jesus and His disciples.)
- How much did the widow put into the offering? (Two small copper coins.)
- Why did Jesus draw attention to the widow's offering? (Jesus wanted to show the crowd the woman's great worship. She gave all that she had. The others who were wealthy gave more but they still had plenty left over.)

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CRAFT QUESTIONS

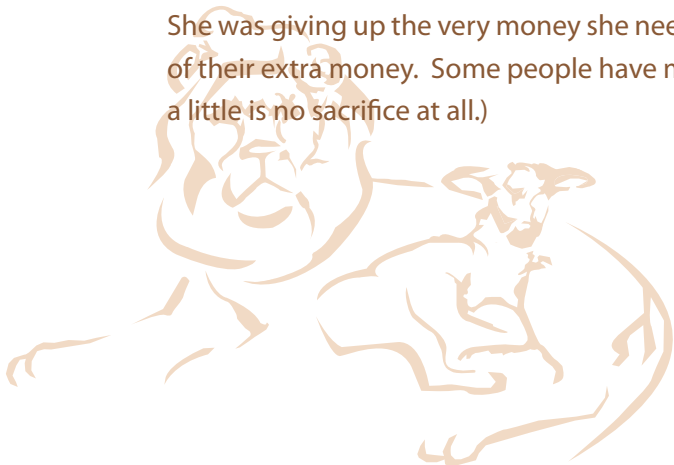
Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: widow putting two small copper coins into the offering. Engage the children by asking:

- What can we tell about the heart of the widow because of what she gave? (The widow trusted God to be her provider. Her trust in God and His plan for her life was demonstrated by what she gave.)
- Why is this story important for us today? (The Bible tells us that we can only serve one master, God or money. God is interested in how we use our money and what we give. Jesus was watching what people placed in the treasury. God is not interested in the size of our gift, He is interested in our heart's attitude when we give.)
- 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.)

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Why do we have money? (We have money to help us trade with others for what we need. Not everyone uses money. Some people trade for what they want directly. Grown-ups trade work for money. They use the money to trade for the things that they want, such as food or clothes or houses.)
- Why is giving up our money hard for us? (We work hard to earn money. Money can buy the things that we want. When we give up our money we are giving up the chance to get things that we want.)
- Which person's offering cost them more, the widow or the rich? (The widow's offering cost her more. She was giving up the very money she needed for food and trusted God for her provision. The rich gave of their extra money. Some people have more money than they can use. For those people giving away a little is no sacrifice at all.)



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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

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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

