

Adventures with GOD!

THE WIDOW AND HER OFFERING

(B.1.SPRING.4)

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Biblical Reference | Mark 12:41-44 |
| Key Verse | John 10:36 |
| Key Concept | God honors what I give with joy: my life, my time, my money; even when it's not a lot. |
| Educational Objectives | At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell what they feel when they receive a gift or get a gift from someone 2. Tell what the widow gave God and compare it to what the rich man gave 3. Explain why Jesus like her offering better than the big offering of the rich man |

Life Application

Everything we have and are is from God. The children will learn through this lesson that God is pleased when we give with a grateful heart, even if it's a small amount. The widow gave all she had as a demonstration of her faith that God would take care of her needs. During the week the children can think about the offering that they can give God, remembering God's amazing love for them.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

| Activity | Materials | Time |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| My GROW Adventure | GROW Adventure w/God materials | 5 minutes |
| Opening Prayer | Candle | 1 minute |
| Craft | Paper, crayons, scissors, glue | 10 minutes |
| Bible Story | Bible, visual aid | 10 minutes |
| Prayer and song | | 10 minutes |
| Application | Coins, basket | 10 minutes |
| Activity | Scroll, pens, markers | 10 minutes |
| My GROW Adventure | Review | 5 minutes |
| Closing Prayer | Candle | 1 minute |

Adventures with GOD!

INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Craft: the symbol that the children will put on the tree today is that of a coin that represents the widow's offering. The children can color one or two coins and write the verse on the paper.

Bible Story: Judas Iscariot was the treasurer of the disciples. It's interesting to know that money became more important to him, even more important than Jesus. He can tell the story from his point of view. He never understood why Jesus was more pleased by the widow's offering than by the big offering the rich man gave. When Judas finishes telling the story, help the children understand why Jesus was so happy. Use 10 coins to explain that even though everything belongs to God, he asks that we give 10% of what we have to show our trust in God that God will always provide. Count the 10 coins, then take one away and say that the first one is for Jesus and the other 9 are for us to take care of our needs. The interesting thing about the widow (which you can also show with the coins so that it serves as a visual aid) is that she only had 2 coins and she gave them both to God.

Some important concepts to share in this story are:

1. Everything belongs to God (our money, our lives, our talents, etc.)
2. God asks us to show our trust that God will provide, but asking us to give back 10% to God.
3. The widow trusted in God and gave back everything as a sign of her gratefulness and trust in God.

Adventures with GOD!

4. God expects us to give with a grateful heart, just as the widow did.

Finish the story by letting a child put the symbol of the coin on your tree/branches.

Prayer and song: Pray using short phrases, thanking God for all that we have been given and for the privilege that we have to give back to God and share with others. Add another verse to the song, "God is so good."

Application: In the following pages you will find a modern story that you can tell, using the props suggested

Activity: In the scrolls, have the children add the phrase, "I am the Son of God."

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W: Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Adventures with GOD!

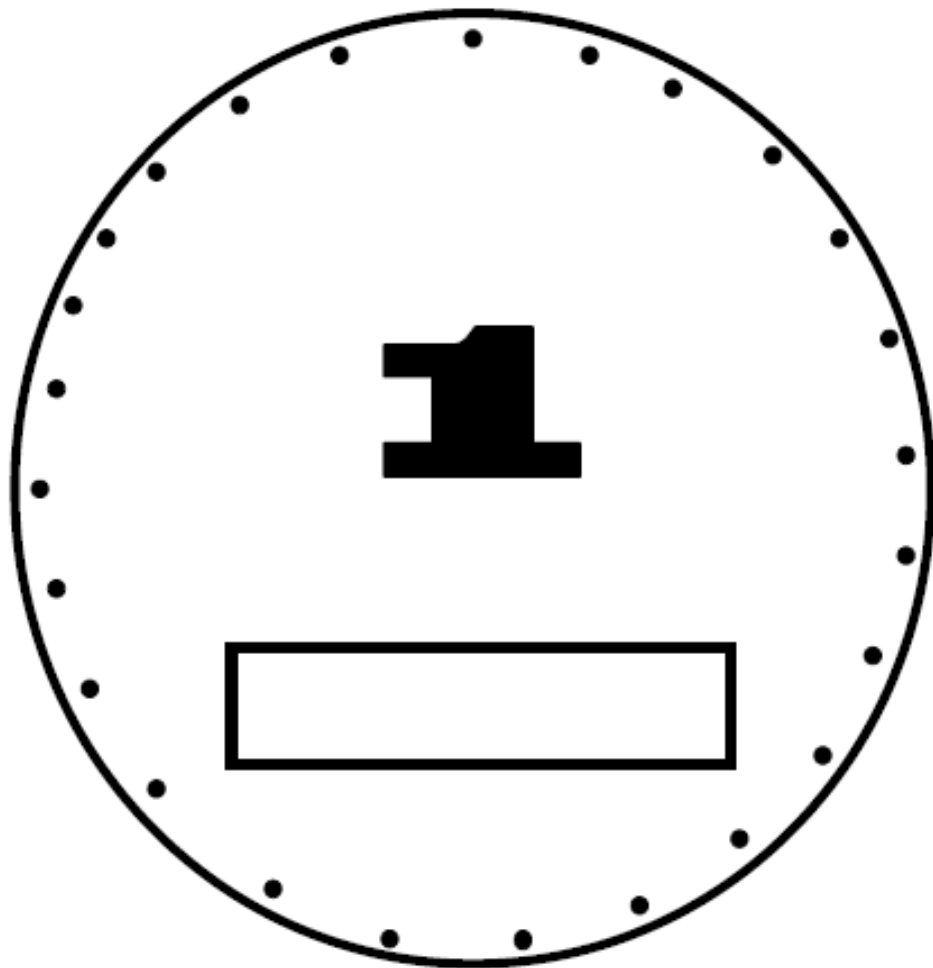
Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Today the children can give thanks to God for the guidance and directions that we have been given in the Bible, by our leaders and our parents. Before praying, reflect for a few minutes on the advantage that we have today to have the word of God which gives us direction. Remind them that we are all given the decision to choose the path that follows God. We each have to choose. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

Adventures with GOD!

SYMBOL

Coin



Adventures with GOD!

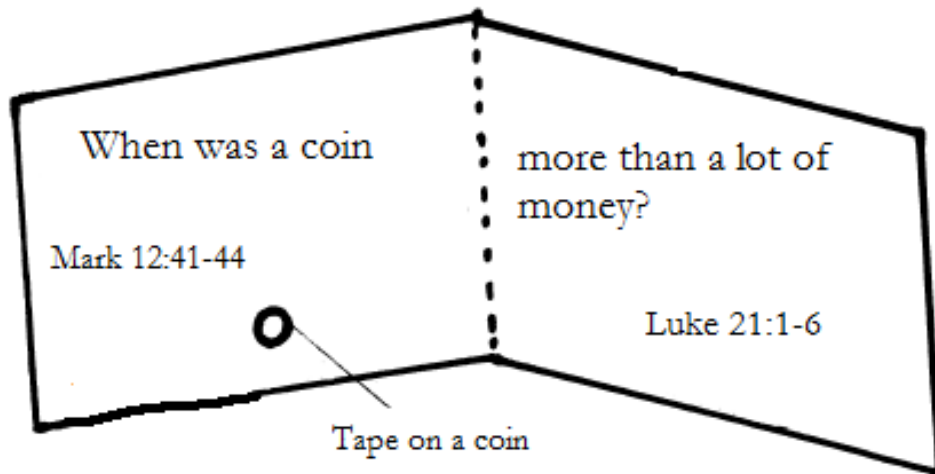
ILLUSTRATION



Adventures with GOD!

VISUAL

This visual aid can be made out of poster board and hung on the wall or placed on a table. Have the children guess the answer to the question. Then read the Bible passages to find the answer. You can use this as an introduction to the story.



Adventures with GOD!

APPLICATION

A modern story – if coins could talk

Put three coins in a basket and choose a child to be in charge of the basket and come to stand in front of everyone else. When it's time, according to the story, the child will take out a coin.

One time there were 3 coins in a basket. These three coins belonged to three kids who had put them there. If we listen closely we can hear them talk. (Wait a moment and put your hand up to your ear as if you were listening to them. When it's time for the coin to talk, change the tone of your voice.)

(Have the child take out one coin)

"I heard Leslie say that she was going to take me to the store to buy some candy. She loves candy and she buys it every chance she gets. I'm glad I can help her buy something she likes," said the first coin.

(Have the child take out the second coin)

"Well," said the second coin, "Carlos said he's going to buy some toy cars. I hear him talk to a friend who is selling some. So that's what I'm going to help him buy."

(Have the child take out the third coin)

"Jessica is a girl who loves to take her offering to church each Sunday. She gives me in the offering and then the church uses me to bless other people, like those who are poor and need food or shelter."

"Ha, ha, ha," said the other coins. "Don't you know that to help the poor you need to give a lot of money? You'd need hundreds of coins! How can you, just one coin help?"

When Sunday came, Jessica took the coin and put it in the offering. The other children also brought coins and put them in the basket. In other churches around the city and the world, other children were also giving money as an offering to God. Samuel and the other children learned about their brothers and sisters in other parts of the world, about how they love God and about how they have many economic needs.

Adventures with GOD!

One Sunday, a thank you letter arrived from children across the world. The gifts the children had given had made a difference. The letter said, “Thank you so much for your offering. There was an earthquake and we lost our house and everything. We have been able to buy materials we need to build a new house, because of your generosity. Thank you for showing us God’s love!”

Leslie had spent her money on candy, but when the candy was gone she wanted more. Carlos bought his toy car, but it broke a few days later. The coin that Jessica gave was joined by a bunch of other coins and helped a family build a new house – a house that would last a long time, a house that would be filled with God’s love. What a wonderful way we can share with others what God has given us.