Lesson 13

The Poor Woman’s Gift

Based on: Mark 12:41-44

“I will be glad and rejoice in your love.”

Psalm 31:7
Teacher Preparation

You can use the Teacher Preparation Sheet to help plan for this lesson.

You can order the Preschool Music #2 CD or physical copies of lesson posters and other resources while supplies last by calling 800-446-7735.

Who?

Jesus, Jesus' friends, rich men, poor woman

What?

When the widow gave two small coins, Jesus told His friends that she had given the most (Mark 12:41-44)

When & Where?

During the final weeks of Jesus' life, in the Temple in Jerusalem

Why?

To help children show love for God

Goals For Each Child

1. Tell how a poor woman showed love to God
2. Name a way to show love for God
3. Pray to show love for God and to thank Him for His love

Teacher Challenge

Mark 12:41-44.
As you read about the poor widow's gift, what challenges you? How might this story encourage the children you teach?

In the Court of Women, Jesus watched a hubbub of milling people and animals. But one widow caught His eye. She carried two lepta, the smallest and thinnest of coins, together worth half a cent. The widow slipped her coins into the collection box and was off. But Jesus pointed her out to the disciples. Jesus said she gave more than any other person—because she gave all she had, fully trusting her Father to meet all her needs.

-When have you given something to God that you hadn't planned to give?

-What happened as a result of that gift? What did you learn?

God still isn’t impressed by how much we give but by how we give. What He calls us to give is the same now as it ever was—everything. Because we have Him, we can give generously, secure in the knowledge of His constant love and care. Help your little ones begin to discover that even small gifts to God are valued. Let your joy in giving encourage your children to become joyful givers.
Play to Learn

Teachers guide small groups of children in one or more activities

Bible Story Activities

Game Center

Supplies

- Bible
- Several coins
- Cup

Prepare

Hide coins around the room.

Do

Children search for coins and put them into the cup you are holding. Repeat as long as there is interest. Briefly tell the Bible story.

Teaching Tip

Keep track of the number of coins you have hidden. Remember to find all of the coins before moving on to another activity.

Tip For Younger Children

Instead of hiding coins, hide 2x4-inch (5x10-cm) squares of paper.
Science Center

Supplies

- Bible
- Play dough
- Coins

Do

Children wash their hands. Give each child a small amount of play dough and a coin. Children press coins into play dough to see the impressions. Talk about the money that the woman in the Bible story gave.

Teaching Tip

Provide other materials (cookie cutters, buttons, toy people, etc.) for children to use to make impressions in play dough.

Tip For Younger Children

Children play with play dough as you briefly tell the Bible story.

Talk About

- In our Bible story today, a poor woman had only two small coins. She dropped them into an offering box. The poor woman gave all her money to show her love for God.

- The Bible says, "I will be glad and rejoice in your love." We can show our love for God by talking to God. We can tell God thank-You. What can you thank God for?

- Let's tell God that we love Him. Pray briefly, Dear God, we love You very much. In Jesus' name, amen.

Bible Verse Activities

Art Center
Supplies

- Bible
- Snack-sized resealable bags
- Permanent marker
- Finger paint or ketchup

Prepare

Use permanent marker to draw a heart shape on the outside of each bag. Put a small amount of finger paint or ketchup in one resealable bag for each child.

Do

Children lay bags on a flat surface and use their fingers to trace over heart shape. Talk about ways to show that we love God.

Teaching Tips

1. Demonstrate pressing gently with your finger to draw on the bag.
2. Demonstrate gently stroking with your outstretched fingers to erase a drawing and begin again.

Tip For Younger Children

Guide children's hands in tracing the heart shape.

Music Center

Supplies

- Bible
- Towels
- Wooden blocks
- Wooden spoons

Do

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Roll towels and arrange blocks as shown in photo to make one or more xylophones. Children tap blocks with wooden spoons as they listen to "Jesus Loves You and Me".

**Teaching Tip**

If you do not have wooden blocks, provide a variety of empty containers with lids (coffee cans, oatmeal boxes, yogurt cups, etc.) and unsharpened pencils. Children use containers as drums and pencils as drumsticks.

**Tip For Younger Children**

Provide a variety of rhythm instruments. Children play instruments as they choose.

**Talk About**

-Hold Bible open to Psalm 31:7. The Bible says, "I will be glad and rejoice in your love." God loves us very much. We can show that we love God, too.

-Luke, what do you like to do at church? When we come to church, we can listen to stories from the Bible and sing songs about God's love. These are ways we can show that we love God.

-Christopher, what are some other ways to show that we love God? (Pray. Be kind to our friends.)

-Let's tell God we love Him. Lead children to pray briefly. God, we are glad You love us. We love You! In Jesus' name, amen.
Listen to Learn

Large-Group Time

Supplies

- Bible
- Skitter puppet
- Large and small coins
- Flannel board
- Optional—God’s Story for Me Bible storybook
- Everyday Life Poster 4
- Figures 58-61

One teacher leads this large-group time to guide children in hearing and understanding the Bible story and Bible verse.

Come Together

Children sit in a semicircle in front of you. Clap a simple rhythmic pattern (long-short, long-short, long-short). Children imitate your rhythmic clapping. Clap the pattern with children echoing pattern; then increase the rhythm's speed and encourage children to echo faster speed. Repeat with a new pattern.

Bible Verse

Show Everyday Life Poster 4. What are these people doing? How do you think they feel? Show me how you look when you are happy. Open Bible to Psalm 31:7. The Bible says, "I will be glad and rejoice in your love." We can be happy because we know God loves us. Repeat verse several times, inviting children to repeat words with you.

Prayer

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Lead children in prayer. **Dear God, thank You for loving us. We love You, too. We want to show how much we love You. In Jesus' name, amen.**

**Enrichment Idea**

Lead children in saying "We love You, God" in different ways (whispering, talking softly, talking loudly, etc.).

**Song**

This song tells us reasons we can be glad. Play "*Jesus Loves You and Me*" several times, inviting children to sing along with you.

**Puppet Time**

**Supplies**

- Happy, Happy, Happy Script

Use Skitter puppet to perform the puppet script on the last page of this lesson.

**Happy, Happy, Happy**

*(Note: Play both parts, changing your voice for the puppet. Or you may have a helper play one of the parts.)*
Skitter: Oh, oh, oh! I'm so, so, so excited!

Leader: Hi, Skitter! You seem very happy and excited today. What is going on?

Skitter: Yesterday my friend Reggie showed me an amazing place FILLED with good things to eat. And, and, and he said that my family and I can go there anytime to get food, even when there is snow on the ground and it's hard to dig up the nuts we buried last year!

Leader: That's great! Where is this amazing place?

Skitter: It's a big garbage can behind the little house at the park.

Leader: And there's good food in the garbage can?

Skitter: Yep, yep, yep. It's good food for squirrels anyway. I don't think people like the same food we like. The gardener fills up the can with nuts and other things he rakes up every week.

Leader: But doesn't the garbage can have a lid on it?

Skitter: Yes, yes, yes! That's the amazing thing! Reggie is a raccoon, and he can get the lid off and he lets me and my family find the good nuts and then he puts the lid back on!

Leader: That's really nice of him.

Skitter: Yes! And it really, really, really helps my family, 'cause we were starting to get hungry. It's hard to find good food in the winter. (Pauses.) But I have a problem now.

Leader: What is your problem?

Skitter: Well, I want to let Reggie know how happy, happy, happy I am that he helped me and my family, but I don't know how.

Leader: Oh. Well, I wonder if the boys and girls can help you think of some ways to thank Reggie and let him know that you love what he did for you.

Skitter: Oh, yes. The boys and girls look very, very, very smart. Can you ask them?
Leader: Sure! (Talks to children.) Boys and girls, what can Skitter do to show Reggie how he feels? (Pauses for children to tell ideas including say thank-you, make a card, sing him a song, etc.)

Skitter: Those are amazing ideas! I'm going to use them all!

Leader: That's a great idea. And we can use some of those ideas to show God that we love Him and thank Him for loving and caring for us!

Skitter: That's another great idea! Bye, bye, bye!

Bible Story

The Poor Woman's Gift | Mark 12:41-44

Use large and small coins and Figures 58-61 to help tell the Bible story on the next page.

Introduction

Show large and small coins. What are these? What do moms and dads use money for? Volunteers respond. Listen to our Bible story to find out what a poor woman used her money for. (Hold your Bible open to Mark 12 as you tell the following story.)

Many Large Gifts

One day, Jesus was in God’s beautiful Temple—the place where people came to worship God and learn about His love. Jesus and His friends were walking to the place in the Temple where people dropped money into the offering boxes.

Clatter! Clink! Clank! The coins made such a loud noise as they fell into the boxes! The rich people had so much money that they were able to drop many coins into the offering boxes at the Temple. They may have hoped people would think they loved God a lot because they gave so much money. Jesus sat nearby. He watched the rich people.

The Smallest Gift

Soon the rich people finished giving their money. Then a poor woman walked quietly to a box. This woman did not have much money. But she loved God very much. She dropped her two small coins quietly into the box. The coins hardly made any noise at all. The woman turned and
walked away.

The Biggest Gift

Jesus said to His friends, "That poor woman gave more money than all the others."

Jesus' friends must have been surprised! They probably thought, What was Jesus talking about? The rich people had given much more money than the poor woman.

Jesus explained, "The rich people did put in more coins, but they only gave some of what they have. They still have plenty of money left over."

Jesus' friends thought about the woman's gift. Jesus told them that she really had given more than the rich people. She gave all the money she had because she loved God.

Conclusion

This woman showed her love for God by putting all her money in an offering box. We can show love to God, too. The Bible says, "I will be glad and rejoice in your love." (Optional: Review story by using pages 415-418 in God's Story for Me Bible storybook.)

Creative Bible Storytelling Idea

Bring a box or cup to represent an offering box. Give each child a coin and let each child pretend to be a person putting money in the Temple offering box.
Talk to Learn

*Teachers guide small groups of children to complete TalkTime activity pages and other activities as time allows*

**TalkTime Activity Page**

**Supplies**

- Bible
- Markers or crayons
- Lesson 13 TalkTime activity page
- Sticker page

**Do**

Hand out *TalkTime* activity pages and demonstrate how to complete the page. Distribute sticker pages and crayons or markers. As children complete their own page, talk about the items on the page.

**Family Funtime Page**

Show page 1 of *Lesson 1 Family FunTime*, review the conversation suggestions, and give the papers to children to take home.

**Bible Verse Game**

**Supplies**

- Bible
- Index cards
**Preparation**

Draw happy faces on several index cards.

**Do**

Place prepared index cards facedown on the floor along with several blank index cards. Show Bible open to Psalm 31:7. **The Bible says, "I will be glad and rejoice in your love."** Let's **play a game to find what our faces can look like when we think about God's love.** Children take turns turning over index cards. When a child finds a card with a happy face, lead children in doing an action to show that they are glad (clap hands, jump, smile, etc.). When a child finds a blank card, lead children in repeating the Bible verse. Repeat as time and interest allow.

**Music Fun**

During transition times, invite children to sing along as they listen to "**Jesus Loves You and Me**, "Welcome, Hello!" and/or "**Good-Bye for Now**".

**Talk About**

- **The rich people gave lots of money. But they had a lot of money left over, too.**

- **Sarah, what did the poor woman do to show that she loved God?** Jesus said that the poor woman gave more than all the rich people. The poor woman showed that she loved God.

- **What's a way we can show love to God?** (Pray. Sing. Be kind.) **Taylor, when can you pray to God? Lauren, when can you sing songs of thanks to God?**

- **Let's thank God for His love. That is one way to show love to God.** Lead children in a brief prayer of thanks.
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