



WEEK FOUR – MAY 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *The Widow's Offering | Mark 12:41-44*

Bottom Line: *Practice living for God*

Memory Verse: *“Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living + the life to come.” – 1 Timothy 4:8*

Virtue: *Commitment – Making a plan and putting it into practice*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what*

Series Overview: This month, we'll help kids discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. We hope they commit to practicing their faith by reading God's Word, praying to God honestly and consistently, talking about God with others, and living for God in how they show love throughout the everyday.

Bottom Line: Practice living for God. We know that many kids love to sing and worship God. But worship isn't just something we do when we sing at church. Worship is really how we honor God with our whole lives—how we love others and serve them, how we give our time and talents, how we follow and praise God, and even how we rest. We want kids to practice living for God and understand what it means to worship God with every part of their life.

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Pennies

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name and greet all of the kids as they enter with a smile.
- Invite the kids to stand.
- Instruct the kids to bend their right arm (or their left arm if they're left-handed) so that their elbow is at about eye level and their hand is turned upward at their ear.
- Give each kid a penny in their other hand.
- Instruct the kids to put the penny on their raised elbow.
- Direct the kids to quickly swing their hand forward so the penny drops, trying to catch it with the same hand.
- Allow kids to attempt this several times.
- If anyone is able to master that, see if they can add a penny to make a stack to catch two pennies at one time, and so on.

What You Say:

“Some of us caught on to this fun trick quickly, and others had to practice a lot to catch even one coin! [Transition] Today we’ll hear about someone who practiced living in a way that seemed simple to others but meant so much to Jesus!”

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: We finish the month in **Mark 12:41-44**. Jesus noticed how wealthy people were giving lots of money at the temple. Then a poor widow walked up to the offering box and gave just two small coins. While this seemed like a small gift, Jesus told His disciples that this woman actually gave more than the rich people did—because she gave everything she had.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

One Story / Three Ways

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Review the main points of today’s story.
 - Jesus was at the temple where people were giving their offering. Some rich people gave a lot of money and wanted everyone else to see their extravagant gifts of money so they could show off. They weren’t the ones who caught Jesus’ eye though! A widow, who gave two small coins, which wasn’t worth much, was the one Jesus pointed out because she gave more out of the little that she did have.
- Divide your group into three groups.
- Instruct each group to work together to act out the story from a different point of view.
 - Assign one group to act out the story from the widow’s point of view.

- Assign another group to act out the story from the point of view of the rich people.
- Assign another group to act out the story from Jesus' point of view.
- Give each group about 5 minutes to plan what they're going to do and say.
- Tell the groups that they will be performing their roles for each other.
- Help each group come up with some words and actions to act out their perspective of the story.
- Offer the following insights to each group to help them understand what each character may have been feeling:
 - Widow: While we don't know for sure if she was smiling, we can assume she was happy to give her offering to God because she was willing to give so much of her own money to God.
 - Rich people: They may have thought they were more important because they could give more. They might have been proud of themselves for the large amounts of money they could give.
 - Jesus: When He saw what the rich people were giving, He did not feel joy, but sadness, because it's very likely that they were giving their money to show off. When Jesus saw the widow's gift, He was pleased because He knew she was showing her love for God by giving everything she had.
- Bring the groups back together.
- Invite each group to take turns showing the others their reenactment.

What You Say:

*"It's interesting when you look at a story from different perspectives! Jesus showed us how we can **[Bottom Line] practice living for God**. But what about the others in the story? Did the rich people want to show their love for God with their money? (Invite responses.) No! How about the widow? (Invite responses.) Yes! She gave so much of what mattered to her because she loved God so much. Jesus showed us that it's not the size of the gift that matters to God. It's our heart behind the gift that God values.*

[Make It Personal] (Share a time when it was difficult but you gave [money, time, or something special] to honor God and love others.)

A-MAZE-ing Giver!

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: “A-MAZE-ing Giver!” Activity Page, “A-MAZE-ing Giver! Answer Key” Activity Page, and pencils

What You Do:

- Give each kid a pencil and an “A-MAZE-ing Giver!” Activity Page.
- Instruct the kids to find the picture of the widow on the “A-MAZE-ing Giver!” Activity Page.
- Direct the kids to try to find their way from the widow to the offering box in the middle.
- As kids find their way, say: “The best way to take the widow through the maze wasn’t through ALL of the coins, but through the two coins that were hers.”
- Invite the kids to write their names on the line on the “A-MAZE-ing Giver!” Activity Page. (Help as needed.)
- Instruct the kids to try to find their way through the maze from their name to the offering box in the middle.
 - Refer to the “A-MAZE-ing Giver! Answer Key” Activity Page if they get stuck.
 - Say: “You might have noticed that the best way for you to get through the maze was also to go through only two coins.”
- Ask: “What are some ways you can give to God?”
 - To get their thinking started:
 - Help kids think of places they can give to God: at home, school, or anywhere.
 - Say: “Giving to God is not just about giving money. It could be giving to help others, or a good attitude to cheer others up.”

What You Say:

“We don’t have to have a lot to give a lot. The way Jesus celebrated the widow’s two coins shows us that the greatest things we can give don’t have to be big and shiny. They don’t even have to be money, or toys, or something we can hold.

“They can be things we’re committed to practicing. If we’re great at a sport, we can give our game to God and whether we win or lose, be cheerful and thankful. If we’re great at singing, we use our voice to sing songs that worship God! If we’re great at making people laugh or smile, we can use our gift to encourage people who are sad or lonely. When we help people see God at work all around them, it’s one of the ways we can [Bottom Line] practice living for God.”

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding + application

What You Need: Prepared envelopes, blank paper, pennies, markers or crayons

What You Do:

- Give each kid an envelope with the prayer written on the front and a blank piece of paper.
- Set out the markers or crayons.
- Invite the kids to draw pictures on the blank paper of things they would like to ask God to help them be more giving with.
 - If needed, prompt them with ideas of things to draw, like: their favorite toys that they could share more, a clock to help them remember to share their time by helping someone, a picture of them cleaning up after dinner, donate some of their old clothes, money, etc.
- After a few minutes of drawing, read the outside of the envelope.
- Encourage the kids to repeat after you: “God, help me live for You by being more giving and loving towards others.”
- Instruct the kids to tuck their drawings in the envelope.
- Give each kid two pennies.

- Instruct them to tuck the two pennies in the envelope along with their drawing to remind them of the widow’s gift—it was small, but mighty!
- Help kids seal the envelope.
- Encourage the kids to put their envelope somewhere that they see often during the week. Whenever they see it, they can feel for the coins and ask God to help them be more giving throughout the week.
- Close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

*“God has blessed us all with some special things! Jesus showed us how to live for God by loving others. The coins the widow had meant a lot to her, but she gave them to God when she put them in the offering box because God meant a lot to her too. Jesus showed us how we can **[Bottom Line] practice living for God** through what we give.*

“God, thank You for the true story of the widow’s offering. Help us have hearts like hers and think of ways we can show our love for You with everything we have. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show someone they know their envelope and ask them how they could **[Bottom Line] practice living for God!**