

Dear Parents,

Our Bible story this week will be taken from the story of the widow's mite found in the book of Mark. This story will help your child understand that God expects us to give of our earnings. He values the motive behind our giving more than the amount.

Second Corinthians 9:7 tells us that "God loves a cheerful giver."

If your child has not given offerings from his earnings, you might consider providing him/her with extra opportunities to earn money at home.

Jesus Teaches About Giving

The Widow's Gift Mark 12:41-43

The temple was big and beautiful. Many people came there to worship God. Inside the temple were some big money boxes. People put money in them. The money was for the temple and all that was used in worship to God.

One day Jesus sat down across from the money boxes. He saw many rich people put in lots of money. Then one poor woman, a widow, walked up to the boxes. She put in two small copper coins worth less than a penny.

Jesus looked at his friends. "This poor woman put in more than the rich people did," he said. "Here's why: the rich people still have much money left. But this woman only had two coins. She did not have any more money. The rich people only gave part of what they had. She gave *all* of what she had."

The Sheep and the Goats Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus on another occasion told a story about sheep and goats. He said that when he returns, he will separate people as a man would separate his sheep from his goats.

Those pleasing to God are compared to sheep. They are pleasing because they were willing to give to those who were in need. Jesus said they had given food to him when he was hungry, a drink when he was thirsty, and clothing to him when he needed it. They had visited him when he was sick and in prison.

The people didn't remember doing these things for Jesus, but he replied, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Memory verse

Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in,
than all they which have cast into the treasury:
For all they did cast in of their abundance;
but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

Mark 12:43-44

Listen to the story of The Widow's Gift at: <http://gardenofpraise.com/bibl29s.htm>