Preschool–Grade 5

The Widow's Offering Craft

She threw in two mites · Mark 12:41–44 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



Harder

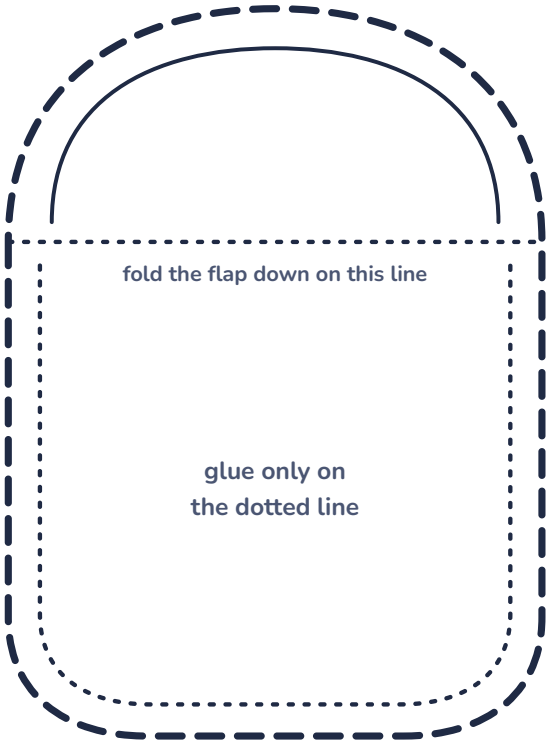
Both levels are a brown paper money purse with a rounded flap, and two gray mites in front of it. A poor widow "threw in two mites, which make a farthing" (Mark 12:42). Medium (left): the purse and the two mites. Harder (right): the same, with four gray giving coins in a row, each with a picture of a way to give God your best.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

Name: _____

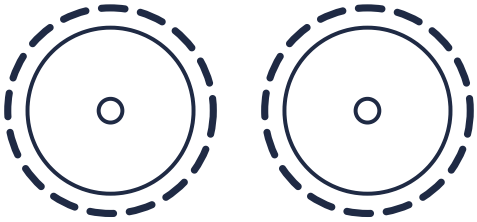
✂ Cut on the dashed lines

purse back: color it brown



purse front: color it brown





two mites: color them gray

verse strip: glue it on the back of the purse

And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:

Mark 12:43 (KJV)

Color the purse back and the purse front brown and the two mites gray. Cut out all five pieces. Glue the purse front on the purse back only on the dotted line, so the top stays open. Fold the flap down on its line.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

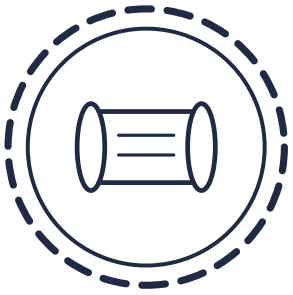
Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

Giving coins (harder level)

Color each one, cut on the dashed lines, and write on the back.



love God with
all my heart



read
God's Word



share
my bread



sing praise
to God

coins: color them gray, and color the pictures any colors you like

How to make the giving coins

1. Make the purse and the two mites from page 2 first.
2. Color the four giving coins gray. Color the pictures any colors you like: a heart, a scroll of God's Word, a loaf of bread and a harp.
3. Cut them out on the dashed lines.
4. On the back of each coin, write one way you will give God your best this week. Ideas: tell God you love Him, read a Bible story, share your snack, sing a song to God.
5. Keep the giving coins in the purse with the two mites. Each day this week, take one out and do it. Jesus said to love God "with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength" (Mark 12:30).

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/widows-offering-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), brown and gray crayons or markers, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child, crayons in any colors and a pencil.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the purse back, the purse front, the two mites and the verse strip ahead of time. Glue the purse front on the purse back (only on the dotted line, top open) and glue the verse strip on the back.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and glue the purse together with the verse on the back. Kids color the purse brown and the mites gray, put the mites in, and then take both out to show the widow gave all she had.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut, glue the purse pocket and tell the story with the two mites. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the purse like the medium level. Then add the four giving coins from page 3, with a way to give God their best written on the back of each. This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the purse back and the purse front brown. Color the two mites gray.
2. **Cut:** cut out the purse back, the purse front, the two mites and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
3. **Make the purse:** put glue only on the dotted line of the purse back. Press the purse front on top so the sides and bottoms line up. Leave the top open, so it makes a pocket.
4. **Verse:** turn the purse over and glue the verse strip on the back. Read it together.
5. **Fill it:** put the two mites in the purse and fold the flap down on its line.
6. **Tell it:** a poor widow "threw in two mites, which make a farthing" (Mark 12:42). Open the flap, take out both mites and lay them on the table. The purse is empty: she gave "all that she had, even all her living" (12:44).

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

Questions to ask while kids work

- Where did Jesus sit? *(Over against the treasury, across from it, Mark 12:41)*
- What did Jesus watch? *(How the people cast money into the treasury, 12:41)*
- Who cast in much? *(Many that were rich, 12:41)*
- Hold up the two mites. How many did the widow throw in? *(Two mites, which make a farthing, 12:42)*
- Whom did Jesus call to Him? *(His disciples, 12:43)*
- What did Jesus say about her gift? *(She cast in more than all of them, 12:43)*
- Hold up the empty purse. How much did she give? *(All that she had, even all her living, 12:44)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** a **widow** is a woman whose husband has died; **over against** means across from; **beheld** means watched; **cast** means put or threw in; a **mite** is a tiny coin, and two mites make a **farthing**, another small coin; **verily** means truly; **abundance** means more than enough; **want** means need; **all her living** means everything she had to live on.
- **What the Bible says:** Mark tells us she threw in two mites (Mark 12:42). It doesn't say what the coins looked like or how she carried them. The purse only holds your craft's mites, and the gray color is only for the craft.
- **No one is drawn on the template, and never Jesus:** the craft shows only a purse and coins, and kids tell the story with them.
- **Keep it about the heart:** this craft is not about how much money kids give. Jesus saw that she gave all she had (12:44).
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and glue the pockets ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child say, "She gave all she had!" as they take the mites out.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free widow's offering lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/widows-offering.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post