Preschool–Grade 6

The Widow's Offering

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Jesus sees what we give, and He loves it when we give God our all.
Bible passage: Mark 12:41–44. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "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)*
You need: a Bible, a big jar or bowl of about 50 buttons (or beads or dry beans), a small cup, paper, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Mark 12:41. Put two buttons in the small cup.

1. Opening game: Who Gave More? (5 minutes)

Hold up the big jar of buttons. Say: "I am very rich in buttons!" Take out a big handful, about ten, and drop them on the table. Say: "Look how much I gave!" Then give a child the small cup with only two buttons. That child pours out both buttons. Ask: *Who gave more buttons?* Let the kids answer. Then ask: *How many buttons do I still have in my jar? How many does our friend have left?* (Lots, and none.) Say: "Today we will hear what Jesus said about two gifts like these. His answer might surprise you!"

2. Bible story: Two Little Coins (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Mark 12, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

One day Jesus was teaching in the temple, God's house in Jerusalem (Mark 12:35). Jesus sat down across from the **treasury**, the place where people gave money to God. He watched the people put their money in. Many people who were rich put in **much** money (12:41).

Then a poor **widow** came. A widow is a woman whose husband has died. She was poor, so she did not have much money at all. She threw in **two mites** (12:42). A mite was a tiny coin, one of the smallest coins there was. Two mites together made one **farthing**, another very small coin. It was not very much money.

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The story continues: Jesus saw what she did. He called His disciples to come to Him (12:43). **Read Mark 12:43 from your Bible:** "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:" Say: "Jesus said the poor widow gave **more** than all the rich people!"

How could two tiny coins be more? Jesus told them why. The rich people gave out of their **abundance**. That means they had plenty left over after they gave. But the widow gave out of her **want**. That means she was poor and needed it. She gave "all that she had, even all her living" (12:44). She gave God everything she had to live on. Jesus saw her, and He knew it was everything.

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Where did Jesus sit? *(Across from the treasury, Mark 12:41)*
2. Who put in much money? *(Many that were rich, 12:41)*
3. How many coins did the poor widow give? *(Two mites, 12:42)*
4. Who did Jesus call to Him? *(His disciples, 12:43)*
5. Why did Jesus say she gave more? *(She gave all that she had, 12:44)*

4. Memory verse: Two Mites Pass (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **verily** means truly, **cast** means put or threw, a **widow** is a woman whose husband has died, and the **treasury** is where people gave money to God. Say the verse together twice in these four parts: *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.* Then sit in a circle and pass the two buttons from the opening game. Whoever holds them says the next part, and everyone says "Mark 12:43" at the end.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The widow gave God all she had. Jesus gave us even more: He gave His life for us. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: give God your best, even when it seems small: sing to Him with your whole heart, pray, or help someone without being asked.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **widow's offering word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/widows-offering-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the widow's offering craft (vbshq.com/crafts/widows-offering-craft), or **All My Heart:** each child draws a big heart on paper. Inside it, they draw one way they will give God their best this week: singing to God, praying, sharing, helping at home. Let a few kids show their hearts and tell about them.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus sees everything we give, even small things. Help us give You our whole heart, like the poor widow did. Thank You for loving us and giving Yourself for us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks whether they have to give money: say that God wants our hearts most of all. The widow gave everything she had, and Jesus saw it. Kids can talk with their parents about giving at church. Never pressure a child about money.

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