

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

The Widow's Offering

from Mark 12:38-44.

How we share is important.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Widow
- Rich Man
- Coins
- Money box
- Jesus
- Sharing

Offerings like the one in this story were received in the courtyard of the temple.

There were several money boxes for different causes and people chose where their money would go.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 342-345

Spark Bible page 1118

Family Prayer

Give us grateful and generous hearts, O God. You give us all we need — help us to share all that we have like the poor widow. In Jesus' name. AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1** Which are your favorite — small or large coins? Why?
- 2** Jesus wants us to share with others. Who can you share with?
- 3** What kinds of gifts can we give that don't cost any money?
- 4** Talk about how your family decides how much money to give to church and organizations outside of the church.



Eye Spark

When you see the offering being collected at church, think of this story of the widow and the rich man.



Ear Spark

Hearing coins jangling can remind you of this story that teaches us how best to share.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Set up a money box in your home. Designate a recipient for the money, then spend a few weeks "sneaking" coins into it. Encourage everyone to contribute a little bit everyday and try not to get "caught" doing it. At the end of the week, count it all up and give it to the recipient you chose.

For younger kids

Choose two coins and include them in next week's offering at church. Use this as an opportunity to reinforce the names and the value of the coins. What sound do they make?

For older kids

Find out what percent of each dollar given to your favorite charities actually goes toward their actual programs versus how much is considered "overhead." Use this information in your family's future giving plans.

TRY IT

Art

Giving can take many forms. Find out who in your congregation or community could use some joy. Work on an art project, such as a sculpture or painting. Give it to that person as a special way of sharing your talent. Tell that person the story of the widow's offering or ask them to share a favorite story with you.

Bible Skills and Games

Hold a coin toss! Place several small boxes, cups, or bowls together on the floor. Have members of your family stand five to ten feet away and try to toss coins into the containers. On Sunday morning, take the coins that made it into the containers and give them as an offering.

Computer Lab

Find a few web sites that give tips to kids and families for how they can spend, save, and donate money. (Try the Money Savvy Pig or Share Save Spend.) Read through the site and talk with your parents about the importance of donating a portion of your money—consider finding a cause to collect money for as a family.

Cooking

Choose one to three meals this week to make as inexpensively as you can. Shop as a family and calculate how much you saved compared to another meal you might have had. Cook the meal together. Give the money you saved to a charity. Before you share your meals together, pray for the charity and the people you helped.

Creative Drama

Put a small box on your kitchen table. At dinnertime, have each person put in something they will give away. At the end of the week, go as a family to give the box to Goodwill, the Salvation Army, or another organization that can use gently used items. Pray over the box, asking God to bless whoever uses these after you.

Music

Put a glass jar on a table. Put a coin in the jar every time you share a meal and listen for the clink. When you hear it, say a prayer about little gifts going a long way. Put a label on the jar with the name of a place that will receive your coins and include them in your prayers.

Science

Gather some spare coins. Compare the thickness and stability of coins by stacking them. Roll them across the floor — which one goes the farthest? Sort the coins into separate plastic tubs. Create solutions using vinegar, baking soda, lemon juice, and salt. See which combination best cleans which coins. Remind kids that even the smallest gift can make a big difference.

Video

As a family, find a video from the library or on the computer about how money is made. The film will provide a good visual image of how much money there is in the world. Explain that if you give your last penny to help someone else, it can mean more than giving all the money you saw in the film.