

LESSON 5

Bible Study for Children

Stewardship of Finances

–Carole Green–

Bible Passage: Mark 12:41-44

Memory Verse: Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV) (Use the translation of your choice.)

For younger children, use the last portion of the verse, “God loves a cheerful giver.”

Every Sunday School class for children needs a minimum of two teachers. If you have more than 10 children, a ratio of one teacher to every 5 children is desirable. All teachers should plan together for each Sunday’s lesson. Each teacher will select a “Beginning Activity” and a “Bible Application” activity to plan and teach. One teacher, usually the department director, will lead the “Large Group Time.”

Before the Session

Teachers Preparation

1. Contact the members and prospects of your class. Let them know you care about them and look forward to seeing them this Sunday.
2. Read today’s Bible Passage, Mark 12:41-44. Also read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Malachi 3:10, and Proverbs 3:9. These additional passages provide helpful background material for this lesson. Read each of these selections in several different translations.
3. Choose the translation you want to use for the Memory Verse and memorize it yourself.
4. Be open to God leading you to increase your stewardship of money, time, and talent.

During the Session

Beginning Activities (10-15 minutes)

(Choose the activities that are appropriate for the children you teach. Have these activities ready and begin when the first child arrives.)

1. Make a ribbon Bible bookmark. Using fabric pens, write “God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9:8” on the ribbon.
Supplies: Bibles, 2 inch wide ribbon cut in lengths of 6-8 inches; fabric pens
2. Look up the word “tithes” in the dictionary, and add it to the “word wall.”
Supplies: Bibles, Bible Dictionary, dictionary, poster board or large pieces of paper, markers

3. Write a thank you letter to the missionary that spoke to the class last Sunday.
Supplies: paper, pencils or pens, envelope, stamp
4. Write a thank you note to your pastor for speaking to your class last Sunday.
Supplies: paper, pencils or pens, envelope, stamp

Large Group Time (15-20 minutes)

- Briefly review the previous four lessons in this unit on stewardship. Give attention to the “word wall.” Comment that these are all important words the pupils have now learned. Tell them that these are words they will hear their entire lives.
- Remind the children about the missionary guest from last Sunday and about the pastor’s talk on where our money goes when we give it to the church. Tell them that today’s Bible story tells about a woman who gave her money to the church. Ask them to listen for how much money she gave.
- Open your Bible to Mark 12:41-44. Read the story from the Bible, or tell it in your own words.

Bible Story

Jesus was in the Temple sitting near the place where people came to bring their offerings (money). (You might mention that this is not the way we give money in our church. We usually give it during Sunday School or put it in the offering plate during Worship Service.) Jesus saw everyone who came to the offering boxes. He saw many rich people dressed in fine clothes. They threw large amounts of money into the offering boxes. Probably everyone around them could hear the loud clank of their coins as they went into the box.

But rich people weren’t the only ones who brought money to the Temple. Jesus also noticed a woman there. He knew that her husband was dead and that she was poor. It was probably hard for her to get enough money to pay for her own needs, like food, clothing, and shelter. She put two very small copper coins into the offering box. These coins together were not even worth a penny.

Then Jesus asked His disciples to gather around and listen to what He had to say. Read Jesus’ words in verses 43-44. Jesus saw that the poor woman’s offering was more generous than the rich people’s offerings. Even though they gave a large amount of money, they still had plenty left over for themselves. But the poor woman gave everything she had.

Jesus taught His disciples that the amount of money we give is not the most important thing. He told them that the poor widow put more into the offering than all the others – because she gave everything she had.

Our Memory Verse today teaches us that we shouldn’t give our money grudgingly or because we are forced to give. God wants us to give money because we love Him, and He wants us to do it cheerfully.

The Bible also teaches us that God wants us to give a tithe of our income to Him. A tithe is a tenth. (Show a dollar bill and 10 dimes.) When you earn a dollar, you will want to give a tithe. A tenth of a dollar is 10 cents. Although that is not a lot

of money, it adds up when everyone contributes according to God's plan of tithing. That's the way our church is able to have money to give to missionaries and to do everything else that we do.

- If you have one available, show a picture of Jesus in the Temple with the poor widow. Ask, "How much did she give?"
- Pray, asking God to help us all be generous, cheerful givers.
- Explain the Bible Application Activities. Let each teacher briefly explain the activity he/she has selected. Give each child the opportunity to choose an activity.

Bible Application Activities (15-20 minutes)

Choose the activities that are appropriate for your students. Plan for at least two of the activities and allow the children to make a choice.

1. Responsive Reading – Ask your worship leaders ahead of time if the children from your class can lead the congregation in a Responsive Reading during the Worship Service this morning. Use #715 in *The Baptist Hymnal* (1991 edition); this is a selection on stewardship. Practice with the children so they will know exactly what they are to do. Choose whether to have a different child read each of the light print selections or to have one child read the light print and the other children respond with the dark print. Take the children to the sanctuary to practice, if at all possible.

Supplies: hymnals

2. Write a modern story – using today's Bible Passage, ask the children to use their imaginations and re-write it as a modern day story. They may choose to write it as a drama. If appropriate, make arrangements for them to present their drama to the church congregation.

Supplies: Bibles, paper, pencils or pens

3. Learn a song – "I'm Just a Child," #488 in *The Baptist Hymnal* (1991 edition). Let the children learn and record the song to give to someone special – a missionary, a grandparent, a friend. Or make arrangements for the children to sing this song to an audience, perhaps an adult Sunday School department, or to the congregation.

Supplies: hymnals, tape recorder, tape

4. Counting money – help the children understand what a tithe is by using real money. Have a good supply of coins available. Write different amounts of money on small pieces of paper; such as 50 cents, 80 cents, \$2.00, \$5.00. Put the pieces of paper in a small bag. Let each child draw a piece of paper out of the bag and count out that much money. Help them figure out what a tenth of that amount is. Let them physically separate 10% of the money from the original amount so that they can see it and touch it.

Supplies: coins and bills, small pieces of paper with amounts of money written on them, small bag

Cleanup and Dismissal