

Generosity – school age

Luke 21:1-4 – The Widow’s Offering - (from Adam Hamilton’s, “The Walk”

June 19, 2022

## **Gather:**

### **Less is More – Activity**

*(Supplies: 5 pennies, 3-4 bowls, notecard with the words, church, movies, candy and toys. Place each notecard inside one of the bowls (you can use alternate words depending upon what your child is interested in.)*

Let’s think about how you would spend your coins. If you could spend your five coins on any of the bowls you wanted, how would you spend your coins.

- Give children time to think about how they might spend the coins.

Now let’s say you only have 2 coins to spend. How would you spend those coins?

It can be hard to decide what to do with your money. When we have less, sometimes we have to think about how we might use our resources differently but no matter how much we have, we can learn to use our resources wisely and out of a joyful heart. A widow during Jesus’ time had to do the same thing. She decided to spend her money on the temple (church). Let’s find out what Jesus thought about the widow’s gift.

**SAY:** Dear God, thank you for all the ways that you care for us. Help us to be generous with our time and our talents. Amen.

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## **EXPLORE**

We’re going to watch a video about what it means to be generous.

- Watch [Generosity](#)
- What’s your favorite part of the video? What’s one thing you learned from it?
- Name some generous people in your life. How were they generous and how did their generosity affect you?
- Share a time you feel like you were generous to someone. How do you know that you were generous?

We heard in the video about the widow who gave everything she had to the temple. Why do you think she gave so much to the temple?

People often give the most to the causes and people that they find most important. When we practice being grateful, we can identify the important people and things in our lives. We can think about ways to care for others who may not have what we have. Everyone can be generous, no matter how much stuff they have. We can use our skills and gifts to care for others.

- *Get out a piece of paper and a pencil.*

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We are going to take some time to practice gratitude. We are going to create a plan to give generously to those who may have needs. Maybe you are good at basketball and you could help teach someone younger than you. Maybe you like to sing and you could join a choir. Maybe you are very good at reading or writing and you could help someone who needs it. Maybe you are a good friend and you could find someone who is lonely.

- Have your child make a list of people and things they are grateful to have in their lives. Next, have your child write down their own gifts and talents.

How could you use your gifts and the people and things in your life to help others?

- Brainstorm some ideas.

## **Being Generous – Activity**

(Supplies: cotton balls, plastic cups)

- Give each child a plastic cup and place a pile of cotton balls on the table.

God’s generosity is poured out every single day. We can never give as much as God gives, but our generosity can overflow to those around us when we share our possessions, our time, our talents, and even our prayers. Your cups are empty right now, so let’s fill them with generosity. Let’s use these cups and cotton balls to help us think about ways our generosity can overflow toward others the way God’s overflows to us.

- Explain that you will name a place, such as a school or home, and that you would like each person to think of some way to be generous in that place. When kids think of a way, they may quietly take a cotton ball and add it to their cup. Offer suggestions if needed, such as sharing toys at home or giving a classmate their turn during game.

Your cups are no longer empty. They’re overflowing! You thought of so many ways to be generous.