

Sunday between November 6 and 12 – year B

Preparation

Read over the Gospel: [Mark 12:38-44](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/properb27.htm>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwvx.htm#p32>: word puzzles

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/widows-mite.html>

<http://sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/widows.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pent22kles.htm>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Small votive candles
- Coins: bring enough so that each child has two or three of them

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Then have each child place a small votive candle by the large candle. As you light their candles say, *We are so happy that (name of child) is with us today.* Pray the following prayer together:

For a time to learn and grow, thank you God.

For friends to share and love, thank you Jesus.

For the time to pray and listen, thank you Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blow out the candles. Give the children the pennies – so that everyone has the same number. Now ask them what they can do with their pennies. (*Wait for their responses – they probably will have a hard time coming up with anything substantial.*) Now ask them what they could do with the pennies if they gathered them together – you may want to tell them the total of the pennies that are in the group. (*Wait for their responses.*) Explain to the children that it is difficult to do something with so little, but that in today's story they will Jesus tell about someone who did a lot with their little amount.

Story Time

Materials needed

- Question mark poster made with previous lesson
- Widow's mite image at end of lesson
- Scissors, glue stick
- Coins from the Gathering activity and a small bowl

Instructions

Copy the Widow's mite image from the end of the lesson and cut it out. Set it with the glue stick near the poster. Place the question mark poster where the children can see it through the lesson.

Jesus and his friends were in Jerusalem. Jesus was teaching in the temple and there were many people were sitting with him to learn more about God's way and how to live in God's love.

Jesus asked his friends, "Who are the powerful people here? How do they show that they are powerful?"

His friends looked around at all the people in the temple. One of them said, "The powerful people are the leaders of the temple. Look at them – they look busy and they wear the nicest clothes. They are bossing around the other people who are in the temple – telling them where to be and what to do."

Jesus nodded and said, "That's right. You need to stay away from them. They are not following God's path. They put themselves first before God's people. They don't look after the poor. They have walked away from God."

After he said this Jesus moved to look at the place where people are putting money in for the temple. Many of the rich people put in a lot of money. Those who didn't have as much put in lesser amounts. Then a very poor woman, a widow, who had nearly nothing in her name put in two small pennies into the treasury.

Pass around the bowl and have each child put their two pennies into the bowl.

Jesus asked his friends, "Who gave the most that they could? Was it the rich person or the poor widow?"

His friends shook their heads, they weren't quite sure what Jesus was asking them. Jesus said, "The poor widow has put in more than any other person. She has put in all that she has. The other people who gave gifts based on how much that they have had. She gave out of her poverty – she gave all that she had to live on."

Question Mark Poster

Direct the children's attention to the question mark in the middle of the poster. Ask someone to remember why they put up a cross, the welcome sign, the jug & cup, the blessing, the kingdom, servant, mercy, and Lazarus images from the previous weeks. With the children think about all the questions that were asked in today's story - who are the rich and powerful? – who gave the most to the temple of God? Ask them what the answers to the questions were - the rich and powerful were those in leadership at the temple – the poor widow gave all that she had. Show them the Widow's mite image. Have one of the children glue it into the ninth space. Explain that for the next two weeks they will be adding something to the poster to help them remember each week's story.

Response

Project Idea 1: Mite Box

This response will be useful if you are looking for an outreach project for the children to take on from now until Christmas. Decide which group you would like them to raise money for and tell them about it – decide if you want to look locally or nationally. You may want to check the following national church websites of two groups who reach out to others in need:

- The Council of the North: <http://www.anglican.ca/cn>
- The Primate’s World Relief and Development fund: <http://pwrdf.org>

Materials needed

- small box pattern at end of lesson
- card stock
- fine line markers
- scissors
- white glue
- scotch tape
- stickers
- information on outreach project

Instructions

Make copies of the box pattern onto the card stock. For younger children you will want to pre-cut the boxes and for older children you can let them cut them out themselves. Following the instructions put the boxes together, using the glue and tape. Using scissors cut a slit into the top of the box. As the children are putting their boxes together tell them about the project that they will be helping to raise money for. Once their boxes are put together have them print with the markers the following on their boxes **“Give all that you can”** and then let them decorate their boxes with the stickers and their markers. Invite the children to take their boxes home and put in a place where loose change can be put in them. Tell the children that they will collect the money until Christmas and then bring their boxes back to the church at that point. You will probably want to tell the families of the children what it is that they are collecting money for over the next 6 weeks.

Project Idea 2: Giving Bookmarks

This simple response will be a way to encourage the children in generosity without necessarily getting them to collect for some particular projects and will allow their families to have a conversation about generosity and what God is calling us towards.

Materials needed

- card stock
- white crayons
- water colour paints and paint brushes
- newspaper
- water in small containers
- scissors
- hole punch
- yarn
- contact paper

Instructions

Cut the card stock on the horizontal so that you end up with pieces that are 8 cm/3 inches wide. Punch a hole into the top and cut pieces of yarn that are 15 cm/6 inches long. Take the paper coverings off the white crayons. Lay out newspaper over the work area and place the water colour paints, paint brushes and water dishes around the space. Give each child a piece of the card stock and have them print “**Give all that you can**” with the white crayon – suggest that they print as hard as they can. When they are done get them to paint over the words with their choice of paint colour. When they are done painting, help them to tie the yarn through the hole and then cover their bookmarks with the contact paper. Suggest to the children that they take their bookmarks home and find a book they use regularly to put it into to help remind that Jesus calls us to give all that we can.

Project Idea 3: Mite Pendant

Younger children will enjoy making this necklace that will help them to share the story of the widow’s mite with their families.

Materials needed

- widow’s mite image at the end of the lesson
- yarn or strong string
- scissors
- large beads or coloured straws
- card stock
- markers or crayons
- hole punch

Instructions

Copy the widow’s mite image onto card stock so that you have one for each child. Cut them out ahead of time and punch a hole at one end of the mite image. If you have large beads that can be used on yarn then use them, if you don’t then cut coloured straws into 2.5-cm (1-in) lengths and have them ready for the children. Cut the yarn or string into 30-cm (12-in) lengths. Give each child the widow’s mite image and explain to them this image is just like the coins that the widow would have put into the money box. Invite them to colour their mite images in with the crayons or markers. When they are done colouring help them to thread it on to the thread/string and then get them to thread on the beads or coloured straw pieces. When they are done help them to tie a knot into the ends of the yarn and then put them on. Encourage the children to share the story of the widow’s mite with their families when they show them their necklaces.

Closing

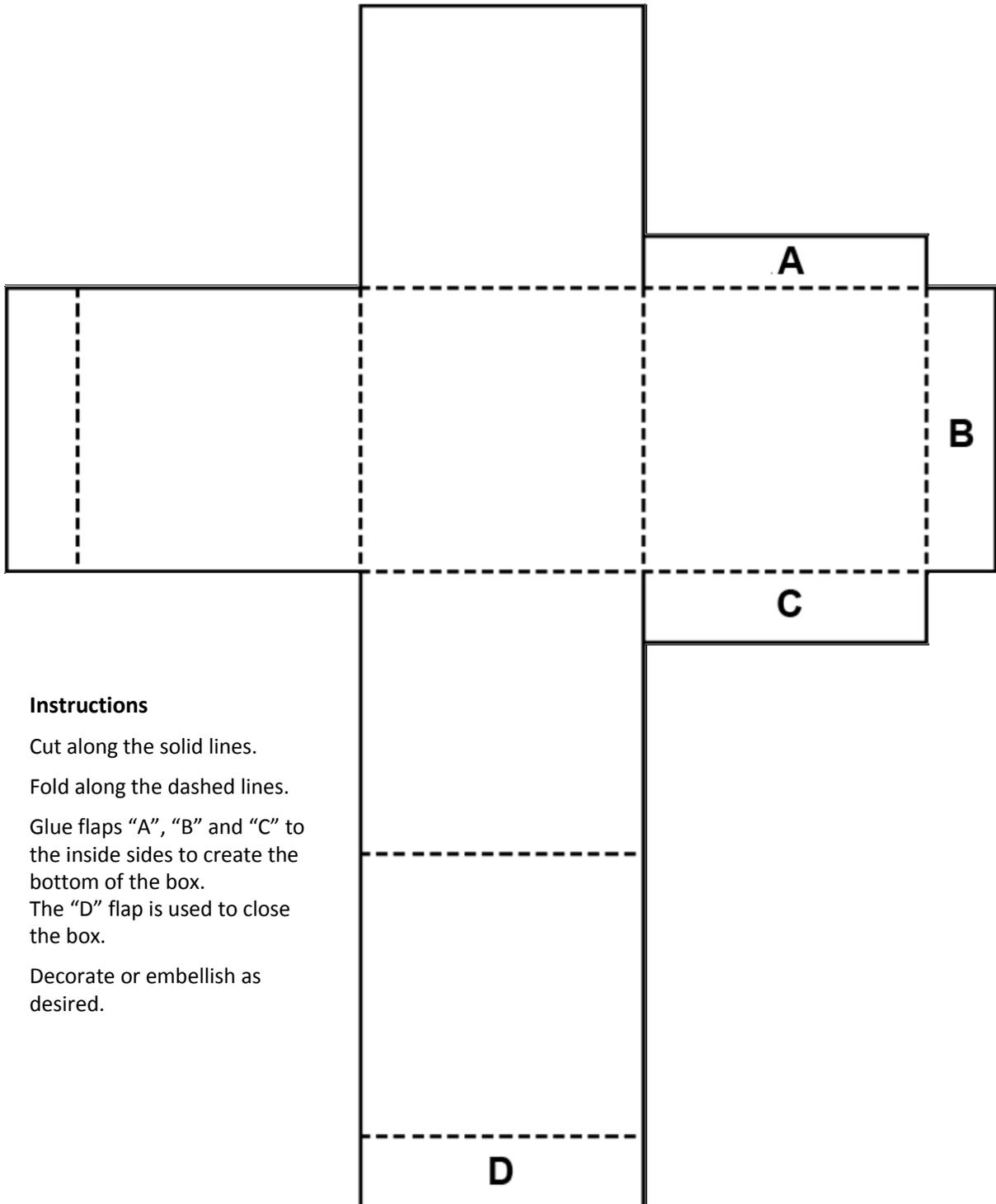
Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Loving God surround us with your care,
Friend Jesus be with us each day,
Holy Spirit move us to show your love,
Amen.**

Widow's Mite Image



Patron pour la boîte de dons



Instructions

Cut along the solid lines.

Fold along the dashed lines.

Glue flaps "A", "B" and "C" to the inside sides to create the bottom of the box.

The "D" flap is used to close the box.

Decorate or embellish as desired.