



i want to give my best

Children's Story

Year B, Proper 27

Title: I want to give my best
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Church: Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship, Winnipeg, MB
Text: Mark 12:38-44
Theme: Jesus is pleased when we give our best
Needed: A container of coins, such as pennies that have been sterilized with boiling water, and an offering plate or basket.

Gathering Activity:

Invite the children forward and let them know that you'd like to give them some money after they have settled down into a comfortable listening position. Pass around the container of coins and ask each child to take a small handful of money to hold during the story and help them think about what happens in the story. Let them know they will have the chance to give this money to God after the story. Hold the jar with the remaining coins as you enter a time of holy listening to an important story about Jesus and money. Open your Bible to Mark 12 and show them the subtitle "The widow's offering" before you begin to retell the story.

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Story:

One day Jesus sat and watched all the people coming to worship as they gave their gifts of money. In our church we can watch people give offering money too, but we can't really see how much they give. This time Jesus watched so closely that he could tell exactly what the people were giving. Some reached into their pockets, took out some money and put it into the offering plate. Some opened their purses and wallets and took out the money they had decided to give to the church. Some rich people put in a lot of money but also kept lots for themselves. Then a poor widow came and emptied everything from her pockets and moneybag into the offering. It wasn't very much money but Jesus was really impressed because he could tell she gave everything she had! She gave her very best! He told the disciples that the poor woman's gift was even greater than the rich people's gifts.

Jesus knows children don't have much money, but he still wants us to give the best and do the best in everything we do. Today you've all got some money to give. But now, let's think of some things we do. Who would like to tell us something that you do the very best you can. (Depending on the time, encourage a few to share).

Just like the widow in the story, we can please Jesus by doing our very best. If you make your own bed, you can try your best to do it well. If you take your dirty dishes from the table, you can do it even before you are reminded. When you brush your teeth at bedtime you can you do your best to take care of the teeth God gave you. When you play with others, you can sometimes play their favourite games and share your best toys. We can do our best to listen well to stories about Jesus, like you are doing now. We can do our best to sing and pray and show Jesus our love.

There are so many ways we can do our best for Jesus by living God's way and helping others. Sometimes it is easy to forget to give our help and do our best. I think it really helps to know that Jesus is pleased when we give everything. After our prayer, when you put your coins in the offering, like the widow did, you can know that Jesus is very pleased with the gifts you are giving, too.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, help us to be the best we can be for you. Please show us what pleases you. We want to share what we have and be kind and loving persons. Amen.

Now you will have the chance to find out how it feels to share everything you have. You can give the money you have in your hand to our offering project. *Usher(s) collect their offering of money as they return to their places.*

Wondering questions:

- I wonder how it feels to give everything away.
- I wonder what God wants me to do with my money.
- I wonder what gifts I can give that will please God.