

Bible background

Luke 21:1-4

Aim of lesson

To show that you do not have to be rich to give to God something he will value.

Preparation required

Pencil or wax crayons. One penny piece per child. Memorise the rhyme.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Tell the class that today's lesson is about someone who was poor and some who were rich. Hold up a penny. Say the rhyme. Repeat the rhyme and get the children to join in. Have each of the children say it again, passing the penny round the circle. At the end the child with the penny can be a rich man, and give out the pennies, one to each child.
2. Ask the children to put their penny under the activity sheet and make a rubbing with a crayon. They should fit as many rubbings as they can in the rich man's bags, but only two in that of the woman.
3. Tell how Jesus saw the rich men come to the temple and throw a handful of coins into the collection, and how he saw the poor woman come and put in just two pennies. Ask the children who had given a lot and who had given little. Tell them what Jesus said about who had given more to God.
4. Teach the song 'What Can I Give Him?'

You may prefer to teach this lesson by showing your activity sheet as an illustration and telling them what happened first. This is probably advisable if you know that your class will have their minds on the pennies all through the lesson. Continue with the activity sheet and the song and omit the rhyme.

Alternative activities

1. Make coins with modelling clay covered with foil or imprint a coin onto the clay.
2. Make simple purses out of folded paper, taped or stapled down the sides. The children can decorate them with crayons or sticky shapes.
3. Help the children to make a simple gift, (e.g. a bookmark) or a card, for someone at home or in the ecclesia. Explain that presents don't have to cost lots of money to be special or valuable.
4. Play a listening game; get the children to close their eyes while you drop coins into a jar. They must guess whether you dropped in one coin, two coins or lots of coins. What would the woman's gift sound like? What about the money the rich people put in? If they wish the children can take turns at being the person to drop the coins into the jar while the others guess, but careful supervision is needed because of the glass container. (You could use plastic or cardboard but it doesn't sound as good!)

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children what they can give someone that would please Jesus too - a smile, an invitation to join a game, a helping hand to their mother.

Prayer

The children may like to pray for the poor people in the world.

Verse

'This poor widow has put in more than all the others.' Luke 21:3.

Rhyme

Here is a penny

Here is a penny
A bright new penny
If you are a rich man
You've got very many
But if you are a poor man
You haven't got any.

Song

What can I give him?



- v.1 What can I give him?
 What can I bring?
 What can I give him?
 He's got everything.
- v.2 Jesus my Saviour
 I want to give you
 A gift you would like
 So what can I do?
- v.3 Jesus would like a gift from you
 He'd like a smile and kindness too
 Give it to everyone that you meet
 And all the other children in your street.

Music: Traditional.