

YOUTH LESSON/ACTIVITY THREE

QUIET GIVING

by Rev. Ronny Nowell

*NOTE: This lesson/activity is written as part of a three-lesson set related to Week of Compassion and the special offering emphasis. They can be used for three consecutive weeks, or in a more consolidated format.

Age Grades 6-12

Supplies printed Mission Moment linked below (1 per student)
a jar full of pennies or coins
random object(s) for 'Giver' activity

Overview

Using the story of the generous widow (Special Offering theme scripture, Luke 21:1-4) and the Mission Moment (girls' education in Afghanistan), consider what it means to see and hear of need, connect with it, and determine the best ways to respond - all while not necessarily getting 'credit' for doing so.

Activity

Students sit or stand in a wide circle with their eyes closed. Choose one student to stand in the middle of the circle. They are the Giver. Hand them a random object to lay in front of one of the students in the circle. Their goal is to do so quietly so that the person doesn't hear them. If the person does hear them, they can reach out and try to tag the Giver.

After the Giver has either laid their object down successfully or been tagged, the students open their eyes.

The student with the object in front of them, OR whoever tagged the Giver, becomes the next Giver.

Play for several rounds.

Read Together

[Mission Moment: Girls Education in Afghanistan](#)

What stood out to you in this story about girls in Afghanistan?

- How is your life different?
- What do you have that they do not?
- What might they have that you do not?

In Afghanistan, young women are now barred from education past the sixth grade. In a region historically familiar with the struggle for equity and liberation following decades of violence,

generation after generation of Shia Muslims have been targeted, their basic human rights drastically restricted.

How would your life change if you had to drop out of school after the sixth grade? What would your future, job options, and day to day life look like?

One of the key things Disciples of Christ have always been clear on is: when needs arise, we need to respond ... we need to be generous, we need to be faithful, we need to be transformed.

LUKE 21:1-4 THE WIDOW'S OFFERING

Jesus looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them, for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

Jesus notices the widow's gift and is moved by her generosity. She gave all she had.

Talk about what's been collected in the envelopes from last week's lesson.

- Maybe it seems too small to make a difference.
- Maybe it seems like an unexpectedly large amount.
- Whatever the amount, God is pleased and will use it to meet needs.

¹ from the Mission Moment: Girls' Education in Afghanistan

An Example

Take a jar and a bunch of coins. Drop in handfuls at a time as noisily as you can. At the very last, drop in only two pennies and notice how different the sound is.

Sometimes we feel like only the loud and large gifts matter. But look at the widow's two small coins and Jesus' praise for her – when we all give what we have, God puts it all together to accomplish more than we ever dreamed.

Remember the game we played earlier the goal was to not get caught as you were giving the gift. Maybe our giving to God is something like that. Maybe our quiet giving – our quiet coins that drop in at the last – are just as valuable as all the other gifts already given.

God will use all those gifts to educate girls in Afghanistan, to welcome refugees fleeing war-torn regions, to help people rebuild their homes after wildfires, tornadoes, earthquakes, and hurricanes – and so many other needs that we can meet when we all give what we have to live on, so that others can live on as well.

Close in Prayer

- Pray for the gifts and givers
- Pray for those who will be helped by the gifts
- Pray for us to be more generous with what we've been given
- Pray that through these gifts our witness may also live on



photo: Week of Compassion