

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

By Rev. Teresa Kim Pecinovsky

AGE | PRESCHOOL

MATERIALS NEEDED: cardstock, paper, envelopes, crayons or markers, stickers for making cards, postage stamps, addresses for homebound members, incarcerated friends, or refugee families the church is connected to. (There are many refugee resettlement centers around the country that love receiving mail like this. To connect with one near you, contact [Week of Compassion](#).)

Good morning! Today I want to tell you a story about Jesus. One day, Jesus and his followers were in the temple, where people worshiped God. What do we call the place where we worship God? [church, sanctuary] At the temple they had something called a treasury. It's similar to when people give to the offering at church. Well, Jesus saw rich people putting in their money to the temple treasury. Then something different happened. There was a woman who was a widow, a woman whose husband had died. She was very poor. Jesus saw her do something unbelievable. She went to the treasury and gave two copper coins. Why was that unbelievable? Jesus explained to his disciples that when the woman gave those two coins, she gave everything, all the money she had. He told them that even though she was poor she gave all she had to live on.

Discuss

I wonder: why do you think the woman chose to give all the money she had to the treasury?

I wonder what happened to the woman after Jesus saw her give this amazing gift?

Activity

In Jesus' time widows were often poor and did not have support when they needed help. They were often all alone in life. One of the things this story shows us is that Jesus saw the woman. Maybe no one else noticed her but Jesus did. Today we are going to make some cards to encourage people who might be feeling alone. We want to remember them and let them know God sees them and we are praying for them too. [Depending on the recipients, explain who the children are making cards for.] Before we make our cards let's say a prayer together:

*Dear God,
You see every one of us and you love us. Thank you that we are never alone. Help the friends we are writing to remember your love for them. May these cards encourage their hearts and remind them of your care. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



photo: Week of Compassion

AGE | ELEMENTARY

MATERIALS NEEDED: Week of Compassion coinboxes (or small jar/plastic box) for each child, cardstock, paper, envelopes, crayons or markers, stickers for making cards, postage stamps, addresses for homebound members, incarcerated friends, or refugee families the church is connected to.

Good morning! Today we are reading a story found in Luke 21:1-4. Jesus and his disciples are in the temple.

He [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.'

Discuss

I wonder what the widow was thinking when she put those two coins into the treasury?

I wonder if Jesus or his disciples interacted with the woman after they saw her?

In the story Jesus said she "put in all she had to live on." We may not be able to give that kind of gift, but what if we thought about gifts that "live on," that is, that do good for a long time. Can you think of those kinds of gifts? [Examples: fruit trees that bear fruit for many seasons, welcoming a refugee family who goes on to welcome others, education for girls in countries where many have no schooling.] This week our church, and many churches across the country, are focusing on the work of Week of Compassion. They are the disaster relief ministry of our church that works around the world to support people in natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, and fires; they help families learn new farming techniques; and they help refugees find new places to live and learn where their families are safe.

We are going to pass out coinboxes and spend the next few [weeks] collecting money to give to Week



photo: Week of Compassion

of Compassion. Maybe you have some money saved up from a birthday or allowance and want to give some to help others. You might find some coins around your home or even outside. Perhaps you can ask an adult if you can do a small job for them and then give that money. No matter how much we can give, we will pray and trust that God will use and multiply these gifts, so they live on.

Activity

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Dear God,
We thank you that you saw the widow and that you see every one of us with love. We pray that these cards would remind our friends that they are never alone, and that you are with them. Encourage them when they are weary, and give them joy and peace in their hearts. Be with us as we collect money for Week of Compassion. May you use these gifts so that others will flourish. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.