

# The Poor Widow

Jesus with People  
Lesson 2

## Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of Jesus and the poor widow.
- The children will explain one way the widow did her best for God.
- The children will plan to do their best for God this week.

## Lesson Text

Mark 12:41-44  
Luke 21:1-4

## Scripture Memory Verse

God loves a cheerful giver.  
*2 Corinthians 9:7*

## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Wonder Wallet

Welcome and Singing

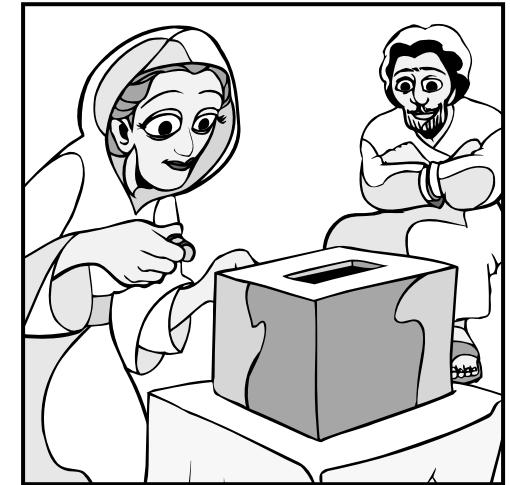
Centers:

Bible Story: What Really Counts?

Craft: What's Inside?

Scripture Memory: What Does God Love?

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



# The Poor Widow

## Wonder Wallet

The children will preview today's lesson as they make wallets and money to be used for each activity.

### Materials

For each child:

- 1 piece of construction paper, 6" x 9"
- invisible tape
- crayons or markers

For the teacher:

- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each child

### Preparation

1. Cut out the money from the copies of Reproducible Page A for the children.
2. Make a sample Wonder Wallet to show the children.

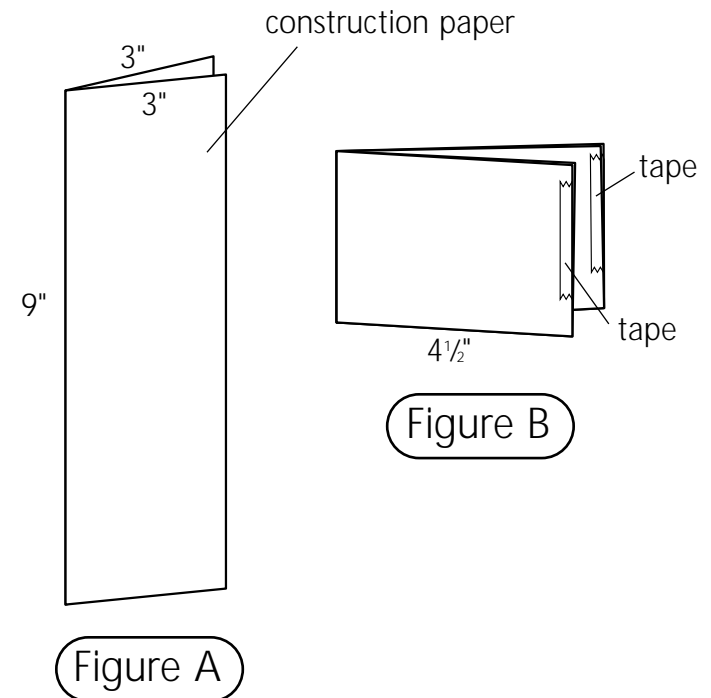
### Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Explain that today's lesson is about a poor woman who gave all her money to God. Tell the children that Jesus noticed the woman because she gave her best. Show the children your sample wallet and money. Tell the children that they will have a chance to "give" their money to God throughout today's class.
2. Distribute the money you prepared and crayons. Have the children color their money. Have them write their names on the backs of each piece.

3. While they are doing this, distribute the construction paper and tape. Show the children how to fold the paper in half, lengthwise, as shown in Figure A. Then have them fold it in half widthwise, and tape the ends, as shown in Figure B.
4. Have the children write their names on the outsides of their wallets and decorate them.
5. Have the children put their "money" in the wallet. Tell them that they will use this throughout the rest of today's class.
6. For the children who finish early, have them make an extra wallet for those who arrive late.

### Teacher Tips

- One standard piece of construction paper (9" x 12") cut in half will make two pieces for this activity.



# B The Poor Widow

S

## What Really Counts?

The children will hear and participate in the story of Jesus and the poor widow, as they consider what is important to God.

### Materials

For each child:

- Wonder Wallet from Preclass

For the teacher:

- 1 empty box of facial tissue
- 1 index card, 3" x 5"
- black marker
- tape

### Preparation

1. Write "Treasury Box" on the index card and tape it to one side of the empty tissue box.
2. Practice presenting this Bible Story at home.

### Introducing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Mark 12:41-44. Tell the children that today's Bible Story comes from the New Testament book of Mark, chapter 12. Explain that this story is also found in the New Testament book of Luke, chapter 21.

*In today's Bible Story, we are going to learn about a woman who was very special to Jesus. This woman was a widow. Who knows what widow means? (a woman whose husband has died) The Bible says that this widow was poor. Who knows what poor means? (someone who does not have enough money to live on) Even though this woman was a widow and she was poor, Jesus still noticed something very special about her. Listen carefully as I tell the story. And I will need your help.*

### Presenting the Bible Story

*One day, Jesus had been teaching in the temple courts. The temple was the place where people would go to hear the word of God and to worship. Listen very carefully to what Jesus did after he had finished teaching. Read the following with feeling:*

*Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into*

*the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.*

*Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." (Mark 12:41-44)*

Have the children stand up. *Jesus sat down across from where people gave their money.* Place the treasury box in front of the children and tell the children to sit down. *Jesus watched the people.* Tell the children to look at someone for five seconds.

*The first people Jesus saw were all the rich people who came and threw large amounts of money inside the treasury.* Tell the children to line up and pretend to be rich and to throw lots of money into the treasury box. When they are done, have them sit down.

*The next person Jesus saw was very different. In fact, Jesus noticed her because she was so different. She was not rich, and she did not have a famous husband. She was the poor widow. But she impressed Jesus with what she gave!* Tell the children to take out the two coins from their Wonder Wallets. Have them line up and take turns putting (not throwing) their two coins in the treasury box. As they place the coins in the box, have them say what is written on the coins: "She gave everything—all she had to live on." Have the children sit down when they are finished.

*When Jesus saw what she had done, he called his disciples. He told them that the rich people gave money they did not need, but the poor widow gave all that she had to live on.*

### What Really Counts?

*Jesus said that the poor widow gave more than all the other rich people. But how can that be? Do you think that Jesus meant that she gave more money than the rich people? (No) Jesus meant that she gave something even more important than money. She gave her best.*

Tell the children to look in their Wonder Wallets and find the bill that says "Doing My Best." Tell them that Jesus is watching their hearts and their attitudes, just as he watched the poor widow. She gave her best, but the others gave because they were supposed to.

I  
T  
B  
O  
L  
R  
E  
Y



# The Poor Widow

Tell the children that Jesus will notice them when they give their best. Return the "coins" to the children.

## Share and Tell

*One way that you can do your best for God is to tell others about Jesus. Tell the children to look at their "Doing My Best" bill and think of one person that they could tell the story of the poor widow to this week. Encourage them to use their Wonder Wallet to help them remember the story. Close with a prayer for the children to want to do their best for God.*

## Teacher Tips

- Make sure that the children leave this activity with their Wonder Wallets and all their bills and coins.
- Substitute a shoe box, or similar box, if empty tissue box is not available.
- For more fun, supply some simple dress-up clothes (i.e., hats, ties, aprons, scarves) for the children to wear as they act out this story.



# The Poor Widow

## What's Inside?

The children will make a craft to remind them what counts to God.

### Materials

For each child:

- Wonder Wallet from Preclass
- 1 piece of yarn, 24"
- crayons or markers
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- hole punch
- scissors
- tape

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher
- Page A, extras on hand for children who did not do the Preclass
- Page B, 1 copy per child

### Preparation

1. Cut out the signs from the copies of Reproducible Page B.
2. Punch two holes in each sign on the "x" marks, as shown in Figure A.
3. Cut out the "Giving Heart" bill from your copy of Reproducible Page A. Prepare extra Giving Heart bills for children who did not complete the Preclass Activity.
4. Tape the ends of each child's yarn for easy threading.
5. Make a sample of this craft to show the children.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In today's lesson, you are learning about a woman who was very special to Jesus. She was a poor widow, which means she did not have a husband and she did not have enough money to live on. But when it came time to give to God, this woman gave more than all the other rich people in the temple. Do you know why? (Take responses.) Jesus saw something very special inside of her. She had a giving heart. The poor widow in this story reminds us that God does not look at how much money we have or how fancy we dress.*

*God looks at the heart. And God loves a giving, cheerful heart. Show the children your sample craft.*

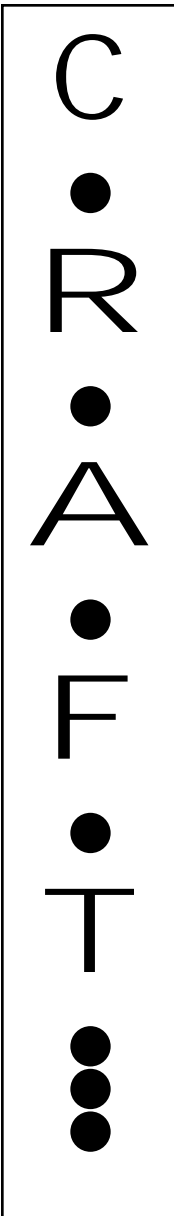
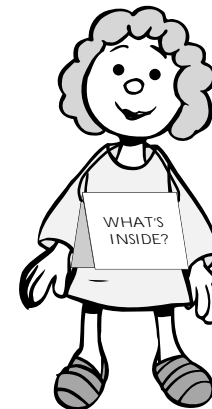
2. Tell the children to take out their Giving Heart bills from their Wonder Wallet. Distribute the signs you prepared. Show the children how to fold their signs in half, as shown in Figure B, so that the words are facing out, and the holes are on the back.
3. Distribute the crayons and glue sticks. Tell the children to glue their Giving Heart bills inside their signs, as shown in Figure C, and decorate.
4. As they are decorating their signs, distribute the pieces of yarn. Have the children thread their yarn through the holes, as shown in Figure C. Help them tie the ends together.
5. When the children have finished, make sure they write their names on the backs. When they are finished, they can place the signs around their necks.

### Conclusion

Remind the children that Jesus noticed the poor widow because of her giving heart. She wanted to do—and give—her best for God. Ask the children to say how they can have a giving heart and do their best for God today. Close with a prayer for the children to want to give God their best like the poor widow.

### Teacher Tips

- Be prepared to share one way that you will do your best for God this week.



# The Poor Widow

C  
•  
R  
•  
A  
•  
F  
•  
T  
•  
•

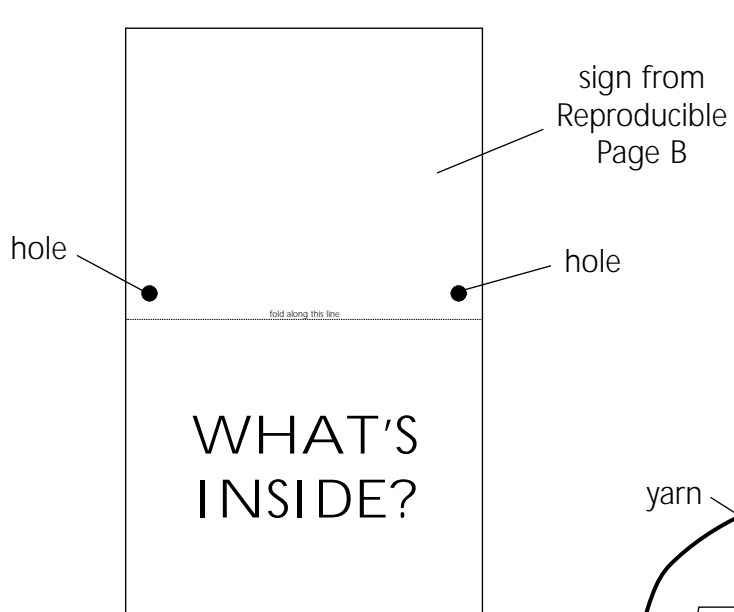


Figure A

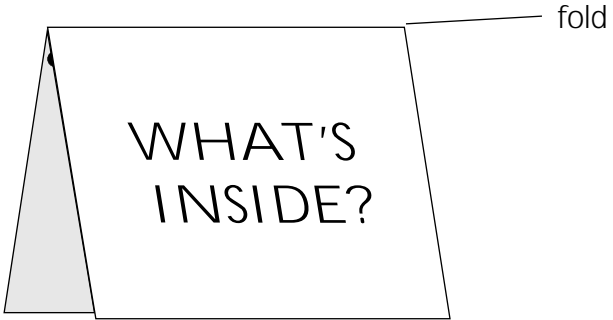


Figure B

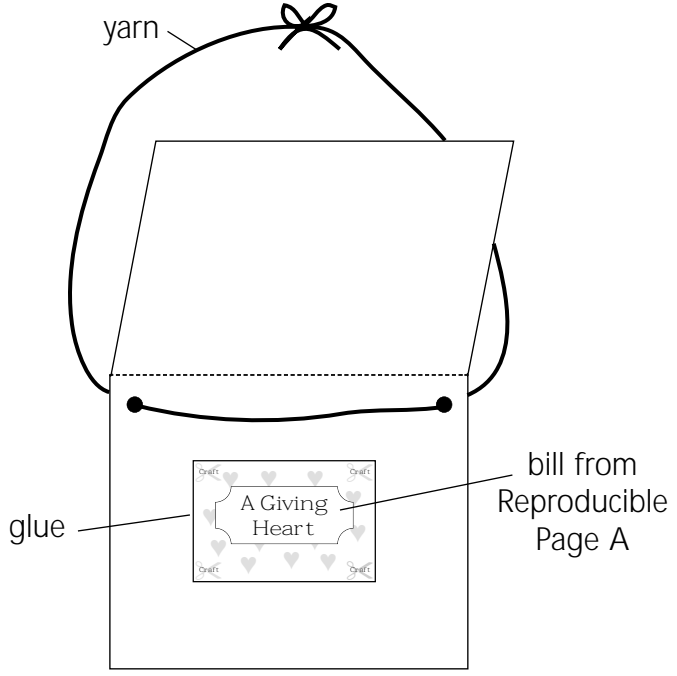
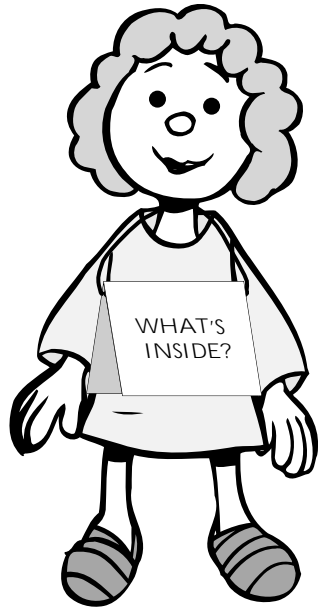


Figure C



Finished Craft



SCR  
IPT  
URE  
MEM  
ORY

# The Poor Widow

## What Does God Love?

The children will learn and memorize today's Scripture Memory Verse through this fun activity.

### Scripture Memory Verse

God loves a cheerful giver.  
*2 Corinthians 9:7*

### Materials

For each child:

- Wonder Wallet from Preclass

### Preparation

Practice leading this activity at home.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In today's Bible Story, you learn about a woman who was very special to Jesus. She was a poor widow. But when it came time to give to God, this woman gave more than all the other rich people in the temple. Jesus noticed this woman. God loved this woman because she had a giving heart. Do you know what God loves? (Take responses.) Our Scripture Memory Verse today will answer that question.*
2. Show the children the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Read it aloud to the children twice while they listen. Ask them to say it with you two more times. Ask each child to stand and lead the group saying the verse. Ask each child to say the verse alone.
3. Ask the children: *What does God love? (a cheerful giver) Jesus noticed the poor widow, not because she was poor and not because she was a widow. It was because she gave all she had. I think she must have felt very happy to give to God. God loves a cheerful giver.*

### Cheerful Giving

Seat the children in a circle. Tell them to follow you as you say the verse in different cheerful ways. Say the verse (and have the children repeat it) three times while doing each of the following:

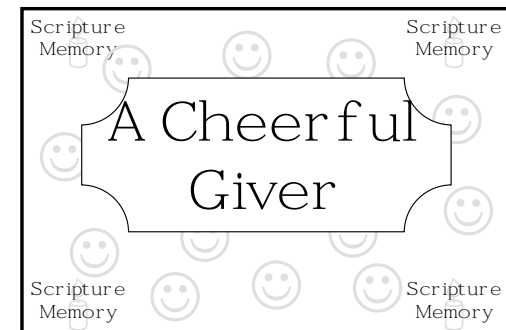
- smiling
- shaking another child's hand
- waving
- giving a "thumbs up"
- saluting

### Conclusion

Ask the children to take out the "Cheerful Giver" bill from their Wonder Wallets. Ask each child by name: *What does God love?* Have each child respond by saying the Scripture Memory Verse from memory. Close with a prayer for the children to give cheerfully.

### Teacher Tips

- Even though this is a short verse, the children will still need to complete this activity to master it successfully.



# The Poor Widow

God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7



## Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of Jesus and the poor widow.
- The children will explain one way the widow did her best for God.
- The children will plan to do their best for God this week.

## Lesson Text

Mark 12:41-44  
Luke 21:1-4

## Scripture Memory Verse

God loves a cheerful giver.

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Rich and Poor

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: My Best Week

Game: Best Guesses

Bible Skills: Gospel Match

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



pre class

ACTIVITY

## Rich and Poor

The children will review this week's lesson as they think about what it means to be rich in God's sight.

### Materials

For each child:

- pencil
- crayons

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each child

### Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page C as an Answer Key.

### Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Tell them that they will review this week's Bible Story in their activity.

2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page C, the pencils and crayons. Tell the children to put the pictures in order by writing the correct numbers in the boxes, from 1-6. The first one has been done for them.
3. Have the children work together. Make sure the children who did not hear the Bible Story work with those who did. Encourage the children to use their Bibles.
4. Circulate among the children to offer help and answer questions. Make sure their names are written on their pages.
5. For children who finish early, have them color the pictures or turn their pages over and write the story in the correct order.

### Teacher Tips

- Read Mark 12:41-44 to be familiar with the story in today's activity.



LIFE  
A  
P  
P  
L  
I  
C  
A  
T  
I  
O  
N**My Best Week**

The children will review this week's Bible Story as they plan ways to do their best this week.

**Materials**

For each child:

- 7 stickers
- pencil

For the teacher:

- large writing surface

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each child

**Preparation**

1. Write the days of the week on the large writing surface, beginning with the day after this class. (For example: if this lesson is taught on Wednesday night, start with Thursday on the large writing surface.)
2. Practice leading this activity at home.

**Reviewing the Bible Story**

Open your Bible to Mark 12:41-44. Remind the children that this week's Bible Story appears in both the gospels of Mark and Luke. *This week you learned about a woman who was very special to Jesus. She was a poor widow. Who remembers what widow means? (Take responses.) A widow is a woman whose husband has died. Who remembers what poor means? (Take responses.) Poor is when someone does not have enough money to live on.*

*Jesus was sitting in the temple one day, watching the people put their money in the temple treasury. First, he saw the rich people throw their money in. Then he saw a poor widow. She had only two small coins—but she put them both in. Jesus called his disciples. He told them that the rich people had put in money that they did not need; but the widow had put in everything she needed to live on. Jesus saw that she had a giving heart. Even though it seemed like a very small amount, Jesus said it was more than all the others!* Ask if any of the children remember the Scripture Memory Verse and then have them say it. (God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7)

**Life Application**

Tell the children that God knew that the poor widow had a giving heart. *She probably felt very cheerful the day she put those coins in, because God loves a cheerful giver. We can give in many ways, not just with money. In the Bible Story about the boy who gave his food, you learned that God used the boy's little bit of food to feed thousands! And like this poor widow, God can turn a little bit of money into a great gift—if we have a cheerful, giving heart.*

Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page D and the pencils. Tell the children that they are going to make a plan to do their best this week to be cheerful givers every day. Show them the seven columns—one for each day. Have the children fill in the days, beginning with the day after this class, as shown on the large writing surface.

Tell the children to look at the box at the bottom of the page and choose one way to do their best for each day. For example: A child could write under Thursday: Clean up my room; under Friday: Obey the first time, and so on.

Show the children the line at the bottom of each day. Tell them that this is where their parents (or the children) can place a sticker and sign the page once they have successfully done their best according to the way they had planned. Distribute the stickers and tell the children to save them for this special calendar.

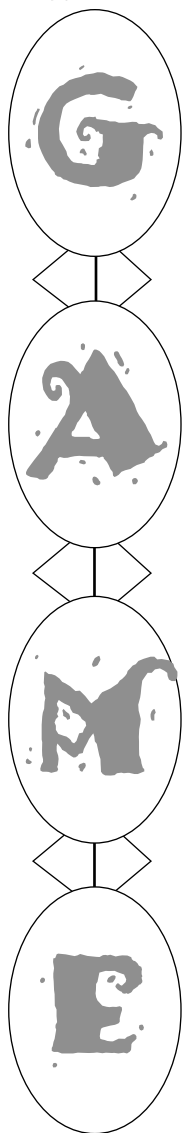
**Conclusion**

Tell the children to think about how happy it will make God to see them doing their best this week. Encourage them to bring the calendars back next week to show how they did. Close with a prayer asking God to help the children be successful in their plans to do their best.

**Teacher Tips**

- Give the children stickers with a word or picture that shows positive reinforcement, e.g. "Great Job!" or happy faces or hearts, etc.
- Let the parents know what the children have planned. Let the parents and children decide together how they want to track their daily progress.





## Best Guesses

The children will review this week's Bible Story and think of ways to do their best for God.

### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- paper
- pen
- scissors
- small container

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page E, 2 copies for the teacher

### Preparation

1. Cut out the questions from both of your copies of Reproducible Page E. Fold them up and place them in the small container.
2. Practice playing this game at home.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your Bible Story this week, you learned about a woman who was very special to Jesus. This woman was a poor woman, but she had a giving heart. She gave everything she had to God. Jesus said that her two small coins were worth more than all the rich people's money. God loves a cheerful giver. In our game today, I will ask you questions and you will work together with your team to make your best guess. You will earn points for each question you answer correctly. You will also receive points for questions you miss—if you give the answer cheerfully! I will be paying attention for cheerful answers!*
2. Divide the children into two groups. Make sure to balance each team with the children who did not hear the Bible Story and those who did.
3. Have the children sit in lines, facing each other. Tell the children to listen carefully to each other's answers, because you may ask them the same question.

4. Choose the team that will go first. Have the first child in line take a question out of the container and hand it to you. Read the question to the team. Make sure they all agree before giving their answer. If they answer correctly, they receive two points. If they answer cheerfully, they receive two points.  
NOTE: A team may receive points for an incorrect answer if it is given cheerfully. Use the Answer Key on the back of this Lesson Card.
5. Keep track of each team's points. Play until all the questions have been answered. Encourage the children for their efforts.

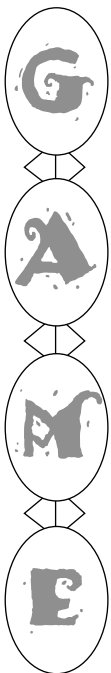
### Conclusion

Remind the children that the team with the most points is not "better" than the other team. Jesus looks at their attitudes and knows who did their best. God wants all the children—both teams—to be their best for him! Close with a prayer asking God to help the children to be cheerful givers.

### Teacher Tips

- Assess cheerfulness by the children's outward appearance, tone of voice and general attitude. Do not focus on children who refuse to be cheerful. Look at the team's overall attitude. If a team does not receive points, be prepared to explain why and how they can improve. For example: *All but one of you had mad faces and you were all arguing. Next time, I want to see at least two cheerful faces to give you points.*





# The Poor Widow

## Best Guesses

### Questions and Answers

Jesus sat down in what place?  
**temple**

What does it mean when someone is "poor"? **someone who does not have enough money to live on**

Jesus saw people putting something in the temple treasury. What was it? **money**

How much money did the poor widow put in?  
**all she had; two coins; less than a penny**

How did the rich people put their money in the treasury? **threw it in**

Jesus said that the poor widow gave more than all the others. What did he mean?  
**she gave her best**

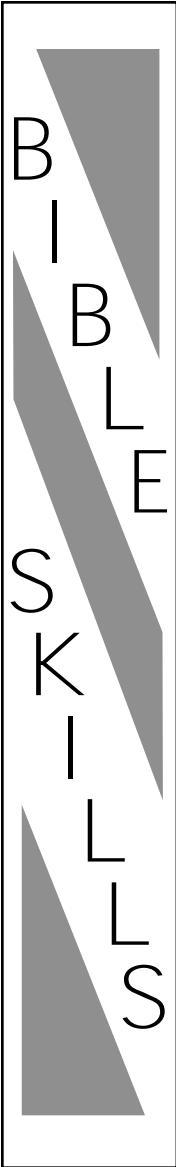
Did the poor widow throw her money in the treasury? **no**

Fill in the blank: God loves a **cheerful** giver.

What does it mean when someone is a "widow"?  
**a woman whose husband has died**

Fill in the blank: God loves a cheerful **giver**.





## Gospel Match

The children will review the names of the four gospels in this game of memory and concentration.

### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- 24 index cards, 3" x 5"
- scissors
- glue stick

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page F, 3 copies for the teacher

### Preparation

1. Cut out all the "gospel cards" from your copies of Reproducible Page F. You should have twenty-four cards.
2. Glue each gospel card to an index card.
3. Practice leading this activity at home.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your Bible Story this week, you learned about a woman who was very special to Jesus. The poor widow gave everything she had. Jesus said that even though she was poor, she gave more than all the rich people because she gave all that she had to live on. She had a giving heart. We learn about the poor widow and many other amazing stories in the Bible. There are four special books that tell about all that Jesus did and all the people he met. These books are called the gospels and they are in the New Testament.*
2. Ask if any of the children remember the names of the four gospels. (Matthew; Mark; Luke; John) Ask them if they know which gospel is the longest. (Luke) Shortest? (Mark) First in the New Testament? (Matthew)
3. Ask the children if they know the two gospels that have the story of the poor widow. (Luke; Mark)

4. Show the children the cards you prepared. Mix them up and place them face down in four rows of six. Have the children take turns picking two cards to find a match. If they find a match, they keep the cards and may try one more time. If they do not find a match, have them turn the cards back over and let another child take a turn. Play continues until all the matches have been found.
5. As the children are playing, share from your own life how your study of the gospels has helped you to have a strong faith and love for Jesus.

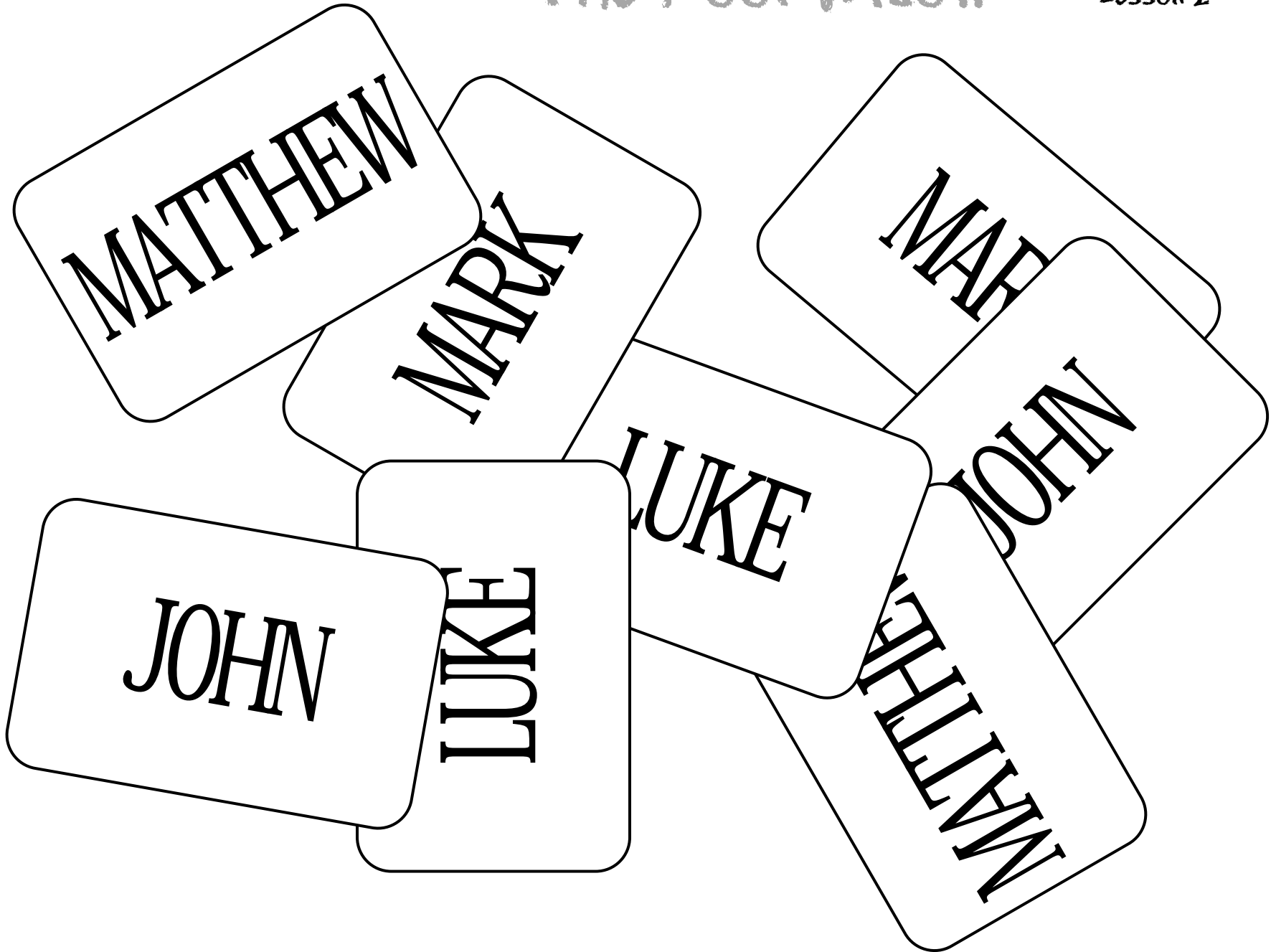
### Conclusion

Ask the children if they have a favorite Bible character and who it is. Encourage them to find out what book of the Bible their favorite person is in and how they can read about him or her on their own. Close with a prayer for the children to love the Bible.

### Teacher Tips

- Reproduce Page F on different or brightly colored paper for greater appeal.
- Laminate or cover the cards with clear contact paper for greater durability.





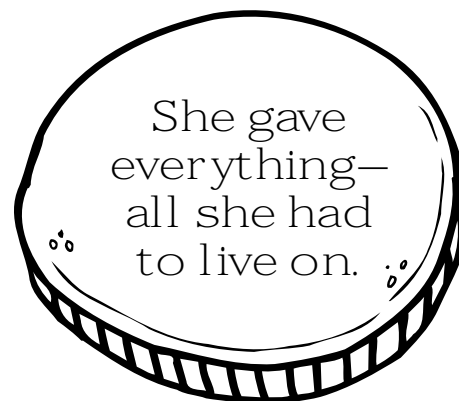
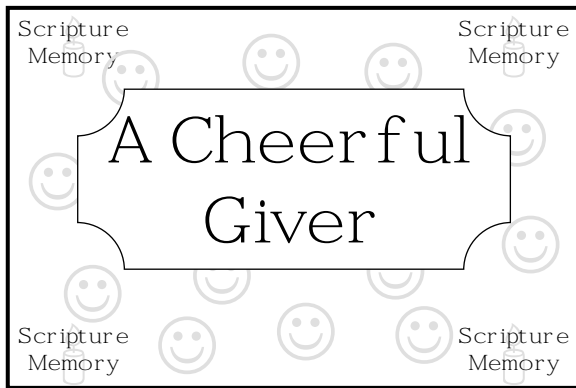
Core/Preclass

1 copy for each child (a few extras needed on hand for craft)

R  
E  
P  
R  
O  
D  
U  
C  
I  
B  
L  
E

PAGE

A



Core/Craft  
1 copy for each child

R  
E  
P  
R  
O  
D  
U  
C  
I  
B  
L  
E  
PAGE  
B

fold along this line

WHAT'S  
INSIDE?





### Supplement/Preclass

1 copy for each child

## Rich and Poor

Jesus with People

Lesson 2



The rich people threw  
in their money.



Jesus called his disciples.  
He told them the poor widow  
gave more than all the others.



Jesus saw all the people.  
Some were rich and some  
were poor.



Even though the widow  
looked poor, Jesus knew  
she was rich.



Jesus sat down in the temple.

1



Jesus saw a poor widow put  
in two small coins.

Supplement/Life Application

1 copy for each child

# My Best Week


### Ways To Do My Best

Listen to my teacher.

Hug someone at church.

Read my Bible.

Obey the first time.

Be kind to my friends.

Participate in Bible Class.

Pray for a friend.

Cheer up someone who is sick.

Clean up my room.

Do my homework.

**God loves a cheerful giver.**  
*2 Corinthians 9:7*

R  
E  
P  
R  
O  
D  
U  
C  
I  
B  
L  
E  
P  
A  
G  
E  
D



**Supplement/Game**

2 copies for the teacher

R  
E  
P  
R  
O  
D  
U  
C  
I  
B  
L  
E  
P  
A  
G  
E

Jesus sat down in what place?

What does it mean when someone is "poor"?

Jesus saw people putting something in the temple treasury. What was it?

How much money did the poor widow put in?

How did the rich people put their money in the treasury?

Jesus said that the poor widow gave more than all the others. What did he mean?

Did the poor widow throw her money in the treasury?

Fill in the blank: God loves a \_\_\_\_\_ giver.

What does it mean when someone is a "widow"?

Fill in the blank: God loves a cheerful \_\_\_\_\_.



Supplement/Bible Skills

3 copies for the teacher (Optional - brightly colored paper)

R  
E  
P  
R  
O  
D  
U  
C  
I  
B  
L  
E

PAGE

F

MATTHEW

MARK

LUKE

JOHN

MATTHEW

MARK

LUKE

JOHN

