

## LESSON 14

REFERENCES: LUKE 21:1-4; MARK 12:41-44; *THE DESIRE OF AGES*, PP. 614-616.

# The Poor Widow's Offering

*Have you ever watched how people give their offerings in church? The money may be placed, dropped, plopped, or tossed in the collection plate. How did it happen in Jesus' time?*

**J**esus was sitting with His disciples in the Temple, watching people bringing their offerings. In those days people took their offerings to the Temple court and dropped them into collection boxes.

Many rich people lived in Jerusalem. They lived in nice houses. They wore fancy clothes. They had plenty to eat. And after

they had paid for their nice houses and fancy clothes and good food,

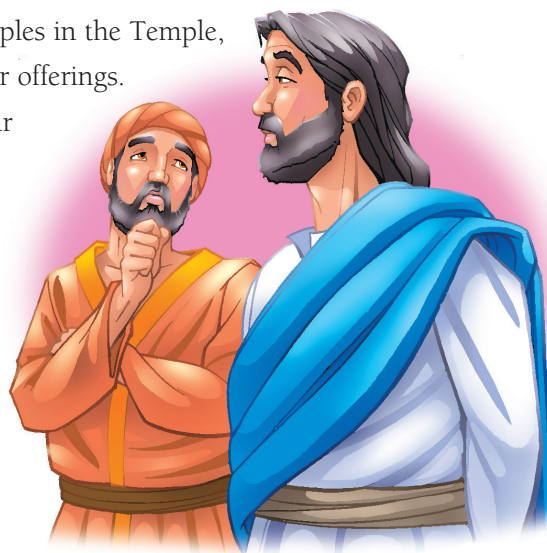
they would take some of the money they had left to the Temple for an offering. Dressed in their finest clothes, they would go to the Temple when they knew a lot of people would be there. After looking around to make sure people were watching, they would pour their money into the collection boxes.

### Memory Verse

"God loves a cheerful giver."  
2 CORINTHIANS 9:7,  
NIV

### The Message

We worship God when we give cheerfully.



*Clatter, tinkle, jingle, jangle.* They liked it when their money made a lot of noise. They liked it when people turned to see who had put so much money into the collection box. They hoped people were whispering. “See how much offering that person brought? He certainly is generous.”

Jesus knew that those rich people brought only what was left over after they had purchased all the things they wanted.

Then Jesus noticed a woman at the collection box. Jesus knew that her husband had died and that she was a widow. Many times she might have gone without food.

The woman looked around to see if anyone was watching. She was embarrassed because she could bring only a tiny little offering. When she thought no one would see her, she slipped two tiny coins into the collection box and hurried away.

But Jesus had seen her. He had seen the two tiny coins she slipped into the offering box. Jesus said to His disciples, “This poor widow has put in more than all the others.”

As she heard Jesus’ words, “tears of joy filled her eyes.”\*

She may have had no money to buy bread for dinner, but she was happy to give an offering to God. Even though her offering was tiny, she gave more than all the others because she gave it cheerfully and out of love for God.

*\*The Desire of Ages, p. 615.*



# Do and Say

## SABBATH

Each day this week, read the Bible story together and sing the memory verse song. (See page 69.) Talk about what it means to be a cheerful giver.

## SUNDAY

Together, find and read Luke 21:1-4. Ask: What is most important to you? Would you be willing to give it as an offering to God?

Help your child make and decorate a “self-denial bank” (a container decorated with stickers, etc.). Explain what self-denial means. This week, look for ways to demonstrate self-denial and add money to the bank.

## MONDAY

Ask: What did the widow give as an offering? What other things can we give as an offering? (kindness, obedience, etc.) Ask your child to name something—not money—they can give to God.

Role-play helping someone cheerfully versus grumpily. Ask: How does Jesus ask us to act? Why?

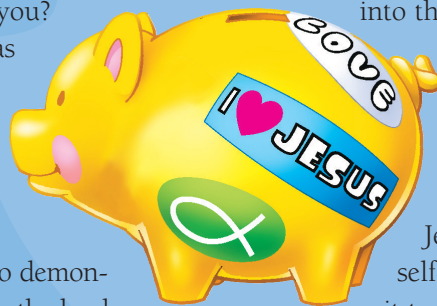
## TUESDAY

Together, read aloud Mark 12:41-44. With other family members, act out the story. Who does your child want to be? Why?

Help your child give the two coin rubbings or coins from Sabbath School to someone and tell the Bible story to show that person God’s love.

## WEDNESDAY

Gather coins of various denominations. Explain how much each is worth. Is a large coin always worth more? Let your child drop coins into the self-denial bank. How does it sound? Thank Jesus for money.



## THURSDAY

Talk about how offerings are collected today compared to Jesus’ day. Count the money in the self-denial bank. When will you take it to church?

## FRIDAY

During worship tonight, read about the widow’s offering in *The Desire of Ages*, pages 614 and 615. How did the widow feel before giving? after giving?

Make plans to do three things your family can do together to worship God.



Prepare to take the money in the self-denial bank to church tomorrow. Have your child put it in the offering plate.