

Collective Worship Plan

Series: Aru, Boga, Chester (ABC) Link

Collective Worship Title: Giving Everything
Theme: Being Generous
Background: The Story of the Widow's Gift from Mark 12
Keywords: God, giving, generosity
Resources: 5 large pictures of items with different monetary values (suggestion – expensive car, diamond ring, pair of shoes, reading book, loaf of bread) Two small coins Large colourful bag (gold coloured if possible) filled with coins Child friendly Bible (or see below) Song with the theme of the goodness of God – God is Good (Simon Parry), Our God's Generous (Becky and Nick Drake)
Introduction: Show the pictures of the 5 items and ask for a volunteer who will try to place the items in the order of monetary value. Once the child has attempted to complete the challenge ask for the opinions of other children. You may want to discuss that it is sometimes hard to determine the value without having a few more details. Of course the monetary value is only one way of looking at the worth of the item. For instance, someone who has not eaten for a long time will want the bread more than the book, even more than the expensive car (<i>change to match the pictures you are using</i>). Our story today is about two different people giving different amounts to God but the reply to the question "who gave the most" isn't simple.
Main content: <i>Explain the story outline to two children before the assembly starts so they can act out yje parts of the widow and a rich person as you read. Give the coins and the bag of coins to these children to be used as props.</i> (Read the story of the Widow's Gift from a child friendly version – suggested version New Century Version, as below) The Widow's Gift (Mark 12) ⁴¹ 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. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few pence. ⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Jesus was teaching his disciples that the monetary value of what we give to God is not important. What is important to God is our motivation, that is, why we are giving what we give. He also cares about the things we are holding back from Him. The rich people in the story gave a lot but they also kept a lot back. The widow gave all she had to God. Who do you think gave the most?

Recently we have been thinking about the lives of people in Democratic Republic of Congo. All the people who have travelled to visit the Christians in DR Congo always agree that the people there are impressively generous. The people in DR Congo tend to have a lot less than most people in UK but they still share what they have with anyone who needs something. They take visitors into their homes, feed them, and fully share their lives with them. Nothing seems too much trouble. They do this because they recognise that God has given them everything they have and they want to be generous in the same way that God is generous.

Response:

How do you think God wants us to be? Does He want us to be selfish? Does He want us to share what we have with only those people we know and like? Or does He want us to be generous and share everything we have with everyone who needs it. The Bible teaches us that everything we have comes from God, which should encourage us to say "Thank You" to God and to share what we have with others.

Introduce a song of praise, see suggested list above.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father

You are a great God.

All we have comes from You.

You are a generous God. We thank You for the example of the people from Congo.

We thank You that they are a generous people.

Help us to be generous too and share what we have with those who have little.

Amen