

**Focus:** Giving God everything we have

**Materials:**

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD: America's 25 Favorite Bible Songs
- Gospel: The Bible for Children
- Gift Wrapped Package
- Book: A Penny is Everything
- (Optional: cd to use instead of song in lesson plan)

**Gathering** (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked about the Happy Beatitudes and the different ways we are blessed. Today we'll talk about some people who gave God all they have because they know they have it all because of God.*

**Opening Prayer**

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: *Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

*Let us pray.*

*God of Life, thank you for all you have given to us, the earth, the plants, the people...all that we need. Help us to be willing to share and we what we have with others. In the name of Jesus, we pray.*

*Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*There is Power in the Name of Jesus, track: 19, from America's 25 Favorite*

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc.

There is \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of  
Jesus. (3x)

There is \_\_\_\_\_ in that wonderful  
name.

Blank is --- Power, Glory, Healing  
and Salvation

There is salvation in that wonderful  
name ( 2 extra times) Fades out.

**Memory Verse**

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

*She gave all of what she had.*

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *Sometimes we share something that really isn't important to us, and that's good, but Jesus wants us to share even if it is our most special toy or clothes.*

**Gospel Story**

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Mark.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *“Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it.”*

**Read:** Children's Everyday Bible, pp. 257, *The Widow's Gift*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

**Discussion Starters:**

- *Where was Jesus?*
- *What was he doing?*
- *What did the rich people do?*
- *How much did the rich people give?*
- *How much did the widow give?*
- *Why is the widow's gift so much more?*

**Reflection on Reading:**

*Jesus made a big deal about the woman giving 2 coins even though other people were giving much more than she did. Let's think about it this way. If I have 10 cookies and give you 3, that's a nice thing to do, but I still have 7 cookies for myself. If I have 2 cookies and give you both of them, I have nothing left for myself. Not too many people would give away their last cookie, their only toy or their only house. The poor widow gave away her last 2 coins to support the work of God. Jesus thought that kind of generosity was a big deal and he wanted to make sure the disciples noticed it and learned from it.*

*Jesus loves everyone. Because he loves us, he wants us to be the best people we can be. Jesus wants us to be loving, kind, generous and good. There are many ways to do this. For the woman in the story the best way was to give her last 2 coins and trust that God would take care of her needs. For someone else it might be to do something else. We each have different gifts from God, so we also have different ways of giving our whole hearts to God.*

**Gospel Activity**Activity 1:

Pass the Parcel

Players sit in a circle, pass the parcel and chant (optionally, use a song from the cd for the opening and closing song):

*Pass the parcel; pass it 'round  
What have you got to share?  
Give what God has given you,  
and make your gift a prayer.*

Whoever is holding the parcel when the chant ends has to hand the parcel to someone else and give that person a gift as a way of showing love for God. The gift can be a smile, a compliment, a short song, a wave, a hug, a handshake, a pat on the shoulder, a blessing on their head, etc. Then the giver returns to their spot and the recipient starts the parcel passing again. Players must keep track of who has received “gifts”, because no one can receive a 2nd gift until all have received one. Play as long as time allows, or until everyone has a turn receiving, whichever comes first.

Point out that we all have something to give, even if we have no money or material things. All that’s needed is a willingness to care for someone else as God cares for us.

Activity 2:

Read the book -- A Penny is Everything

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

**Closing Prayer**

(Children respond: “I Believe!”)

Ask: *Do you believe in God, who always takes care of us?*  
*Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us to give what we have?*  
*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to love others?*

**Sending Forth**

Say: *When we go back to church take a quiet moment to say a prayer to thank God for all that you have.*

**Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play “*O Lord, You’re Beautiful*” track 16 from America's 25 Favorite while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.