

SKY

Knowledge
Series 2—Lesson 5

StoryTime



Ninety for Me, Ten for You

Primary 3–7

Bible Text:

Mark 12:41–44

Lesson Aim:

To teach children about
the principles in giving.
Giving to God is not about
how much money you
have, but more about your
attitude when giving.

Memory Verse:

“Freely you have
received, freely give”
(Matthew 10:8).

Words to Learn:

- Widow
- Mite
- Give

Always Close in Prayer

The Teacher's Bible Study

Service to God consists of many things. A multitude of people will voice the desire to serve God, whether or not they really intend to seek out the means of doing so. Finances is perhaps one of the most sensitive areas to discuss. As James states, Christian love consists of more than kindly words or sweet platitudes. One can serve through encouragement, counsel, and prayer. But the work of the church cannot go on in this modern world without the necessary finances. Diligence in this area is often the test of one's real desire to serve God. It reveals whether one is willing to put one's full faith in His Laws and His Ways.

God is the greatest giver. He is the one who gives life and makes everything possible and enjoyable by His wonderful creation. God has set the supreme example by giving what could never be repaid, and giving it to those who could never return the favor.

Giving is at the heart of Christian love. We all receive; we show our appreciation by offering thanks and giving to God and to our fellow man. God, in His infinite love, gave us His Son, setting the ultimate example of generosity. The biblical precept of giving tithes and offerings provides man with the opportunity to emulate this facet of God's character in a material as well as a spiritual way.

By establishing a minimum of ten percent, God teaches us that we can give more to Him than is “required,” making us inwardly richer in the process. Many people have liberally given above and beyond what would be “required” in order to do God's work more effectively, and to assist the needy in God's church more fully. As a direct result, these generous Christians have experienced the great rewards, both physically and spiritually, of God's blessing.

Giving is a very personal matter between the individual and his God. The most important point to teach your students is simply that giving, like prayer, demonstrates the very essence of one's own personal

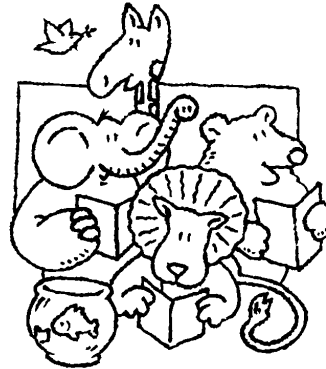
dedication to God; to the Savior, Jesus Christ; and to the very work of which Christ is the living head. We cannot enter into God's kingdom by deception, either in our private prayer lives or in our private tithing lives. We must beware of the "leaven" of the doctrines of either extreme: of the Pharisees, who tithed with rigorous, minute, painstaking and self-righteous effort; or, conversely, of those who are careless with their income, think selfishly, and don't have a true spirit of giving. Christ commands us to "Give, and it shall be given unto you" (Luke 6:38). Giving is commanded. Nevertheless, God allows us to decide whether we will obey.

The practice of tithing long predates the time of the nation of Israel. In the book of Genesis, tithing is mentioned twice. In both instances, tithing is used as a means of honoring God, of showing one's profound appreciation for the blessings God has given.

While the Old Testament provides a definitive system for giving and financial responsibility toward one's God and fellow man, the New Testament concentrates on the spirit and attitude behind giving.

The proper godly use of money is an important subject which is dealt with by Jesus and the apostles. □

Simple as 1,2,3...



Additional Reading for Teacher Study

Genesis 14:17–20,28; Deuteronomy 14:22–27;

Nehemiah 10:37–38; 12:44; 13:12;

2 Chronicles 31:5,6,12; Acts 4:32–37; 5:1–11;

1 Corinthians 16:1–4; 2 Corinthians 8:1–5; 9:1–5.

Are You Listening?

After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions:

1. What do you call a woman whose husband dies?—*A WIDOW*
2. *True or false:* Being a widow is a hard thing—*TRUE*
3. *True or false:* The widow went to the Temple to worship—*TRUE*
4. *True or false:* God watched over the widow—*TRUE*
5. You can serve God and be poor—*TRUE*
6. *True or false:* Jesus was touched by the woman's example—*TRUE*
7. *True or false:* The woman put in two mites—*TRUE*

Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from *Webster's New World Dictionary*:

- Widow**—a woman who loses her husband through death and does not remarry
- Mite**—a very small sum of money
- Give**—to present something voluntarily without expecting something in return

SKY StoryTime

Ninety for Me Ten for You

There once was a poor widow. A widow is a woman whose husband dies and she does not remarry.

God had told His people that widows were always to be treated with special consideration, and to do otherwise was a very evil thing.

The woman in our story was very poor, but a woman of obvious faith.

Her clothing and her shoes were probably old and worn. There may not have been much food in her house. There was certainly not an abundance of anything.

Consider what it would be like to be a widow, totally alone with no family members alive that could help you. Only your strength and health are between you and complete poverty.

Living from day to day this person learns there is no room for arrogance and sinful pride. This person takes little for granted. This person is very thankful for the things that God will provide.

One day, this poor widow went to the Temple to worship God.

The Temple Treasury

She had been very careful and had saved two small copper coins. It was a special day of worship for her. She bathed, combed her hair, and put on the very best clothes she owned to go to the Temple.

The widow knew that people can be clean, neat, and dignified even though they are poor.

She stood within the inner court where men and women could give offerings for the Temple services. There were thirteen chests shaped like upside-down trumpets placed there for people to put money within.

When she arrived, Jesus was sitting quietly opposite the treasury. Jesus watched as people put money in the chests.

There were many rich people who threw in large amounts of money. Then the widow stepped forward. She did not know that Jesus noticed her.

Less was More

He watched as she placed her offering in a chest. The two mites would be like giving a penny today.

This simple gesture of

faith and obedience moved Him deeply. He understood the real value of the offering.

He called His disciples over to Him and said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They gave out of wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

Instead of using the money on herself the poor widow gave thankfully and cheerfully. It made the woman happy that she had something she could give to show her thankfulness to God. She was very aware who her Guardian really was. She believed that God would supply her daily needs and she thanked Him for it.

Let's Talk About It

God looks on the inside of us and knows our heart. We can serve God whether we are rich or poor.

When we give it is not the amount that shows obedience, it is the spirit in which we make the offering.

Can we give to God and others after the manner of the little widow? Or do we give offerings as investments—expecting a “return” on the money. Do we help others and then expect praise and special treatment because of it?

Jesus gave His time,

money, and energy to the people all around Him. If they were hungry He found a way to feed them. If they were sick he healed them, and He taught them. He didn't do it for the praise of man. He did it to glorify God the Father.

His compassion for suffering hasn't been surpassed. No one can give more than Jesus and He did it willingly.

The End

Crafty Ideas

Rinse a two-liter cola bottle with cold water and take the label off. Let it dry inside.

Paint the wood spools black, pink, blue, green, etc.—whatever color the student desires (this little piggy doesn't care). Glue onto the bottle.

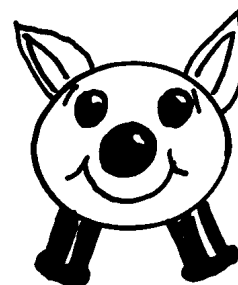
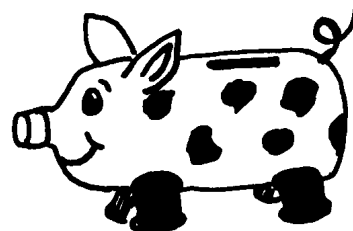
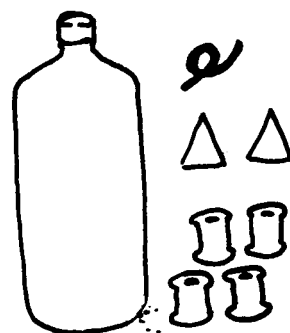
Either use buttons for the eyes or draw on the eyes with a permanent marker. Color the “nose” with markers. Cut two triangles out of felt (or any material that is heavy enough to keep a shape) for the ears. Fold in half and glue on the ears.

Using a wood-burning tool or heated knife, make a slot for money to be dropped into the pig. Make a small hole for the piggy's tail and insert the curled pipe cleaner; glue. (Adults only use these tools.)

Talk with the student about saving money for special offerings to give to God. □

Crafty Ideas

A Good Little Piggy



Materials To Use:

- Empty cola bottle
- 4 spools
- 2 triangles for ears
- glue • scissors
- tempera paint or permanent markers