

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia Children's Ministry

## 2017 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

God cares

about the

little things



Thursday

4 Year Olds - 2nd Grade

# God Cares About Our Service

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word

**Objective** This lesson will use the story of the woman with the two mites to demonstrate that God sees and takes joy from even our small acts of obedience.

## Key Verses

Mark 12:41-44—Main Teaching Passage

**Memory Verse** for Pre K/K - Matthew 10:29

"Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will."

**Memory Verse** for 1st and 2nd grade - Ephesians 2:10

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

## Hook

Ask one of the students to tell you the story of David and Goliath. Ask the students if David pleased God when he fought Goliath.

Ask the students if they have ever fought a giant for God. Then ask them, "What do you do to please God? Do you have to fight giants to make God happy?"

Tell the students that anyone can please God, and that we don't need to fight giants to do it.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

# BOOK

In Mark 12, after having warned the disciples to beware of the scribes and their unscrupulous behavior, Jesus paused and drew everyone's attention to an old widow placing her offering in the temple collection basket. This lady placed in her last two copper coins, the smallest sum possible, as act of love and obedience to the Lord. As she was giving her meager gift, others came with vast sums of money, showing off to the world how much they had and how much they were giving. Next to their gifts, the widow's two mites were inconsequential, and yet this is not how Jesus saw it.

Jesus told the disciples that even though the widow has given barely a penny, her gift was worth more in the eyes of God than all of the gold of the scribes combined. Jesus taught that the value of the gift was not as important as the heart of the giver. The widow gave as an act of love and service to God, even though this was all she had. The scribes gave to be seen by men, so that others could see how wealthy they had become.

Even though no one else saw the widow's gift, and no one counting the offering would have been impressed by the two copper coins, God saw the widow and God was impressed by the heart that she had in giving, not out of her abundance, but out of her need.

Psalm 139 reminds us that God sees every act, every word and every thought that we have. Yesterday we saw that God notices and cares about our mistakes and failures. Today we need to remember that God cares about our successes and our acts of service.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

# LOOK

Yesterday we learned that God notices and cares about our acts of disobedience, our sin. When we make a mistake, God sees it, but thankfully we can always go to Him and ask for forgiveness. Today we are going to see that God cares about and sees our small acts of service. Even the little things that we do to obey God are very important to Him.

In the Bible we read about people who did incredible things for God. Paul the apostle travelled over the whole world telling people about Jesus. Moses lead the Israelites through the Red Sea and up to Mt. Sinai. David fought against a giant named Goliath! Have you ever fought a giant? How can the things that I do for God ever live up to people like those?

Actually, God doesn't judge people in that way. He doesn't measure what you do against what David or Moses or Paul the apostle did. God cares about you and what you do, no matter how big or how small. In our Bible passage today there was an old widow who was poor. In fact, all she had left was two small copper coins. The people around her were giving

# LOOK (Continued)

huge amounts of money, but all she could give was her two mites. God didn't compare her to the people around her. He looked at her act of service and was just as impressed as when David faced Goliath.

No matter how big or small, God sees your every act of kindness and is blessed by it. He loves it when you share with your brother or sister. He is pleased with you when you are polite to the people around you. God is blessed when you pray for someone who is sick, when you pay attention in Sunday School, and when you say please and thank-you.

Maybe someday God will call on you to fight giants or travel the world telling people about Him, but until that day comes you can serve God right now simply by listening to what He tells you and being obedient to His word.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

# TOOK

Review the lesson by asking the class what kinds of things they can do to serve God today.

**Pray:** Ask the Lord to show the class ways that they can honor Him.

**Parent Question:** What can we do to please God today?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on Mark 12:41-44

### 3. (41-42) Jesus observes the widow's giving.

Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.

a. Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury: The sight of this poor widow must have been a welcome sight to a weary Jesus, after enduring a storm of questions from His enemies.

i. The line at the offering box and the pride shown by the rich men in their giving shows us that it isn't necessarily more spiritual to have an offering box instead of passing offering bags. It isn't a matter of right and wrong, but a matter of which is an easier way for people to give in a way that doesn't call attention to their gifts.

b. Saw how the people put money into the treasury: Jesus looks at us when we give and He notices how we give. As Jesus looks, He is more interested in how we give than in how much we give. In seeing how the people gave, Jesus wasn't studying technique. He looks more at motive and heart.

c. Many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came in and threw in two mites: Jesus noticed a long line of rich people who put in a lot of money, perhaps making some kind of display to call attention to their gifts. The one poor widow was different, and offered two mites.

i. Mark tells us that two mites make one quadrans. Matthew Poole says that we can calculate the value of a mite based on the value of a denarius, which was the going rate of one day's labor for a working man. According to Poole's calculations, a denarius equals six meahs; one meah equals two pondions; one pondion equals two issarines; one issarine equals eight mites. When you figure it all out, two mites are 1% of a denarius. A mite was pretty small – perhaps our equivalent of putting \$1 in the collection plate.

ii. A quadrans was a Roman coin. Mark helped his Roman readers to understand how much a mite was worth. It wasn't worth much.

iii. The ancient Greek word lepton literally means "a tiny thing," and so in the Old English was translated mite, which comes from the word for a "crumb" or "very small morsel."

d. Two mites: The wonderful thing about this widow's giving was that she had two mites and gave them both. She might have kept one coin for herself, and no one would blame her if she did. Instead, she gave with staggering generosity.

### 4. (43-44) Jesus assesses the widow's gift.

So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

- a. This poor widow has put in more than all those who have given: Jesus did not say that she put in more than any one of them; He said that she put in more than all of them – all of them put together.
- b. They all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had: This explains how Jesus could say that the widow put in more than all. It was because all the others gave out of their abundance but she gave sacrificially.
  - i. Jesus' principle here shows us that before God, the spirit of giving determines the value of the gift more than the amount. God doesn't want grudgingly given money or guilt money. God loves the cheerful giver.
  - ii. The widow's gift and Jesus' comment on it also shows us that the value of a gift is determined by what it costs the giver. This is what made the widow's gift so valuable. David refused to give God that which cost me nothing (2 Samuel 24:24).
  - iii. Jesus' principle here shows us that God does not need our money. If God needed our money, then how much we give would be more important than our heart in giving. Instead, it is our privilege to give to Him, and we need to give because it is good for us, not because it is good for God.
- c. Out of her poverty: The woman was poor because she was a widow and had no husband to help support her. It also may be significant that Jesus had just criticized the scribes as those who devour widow's houses. Then a lone widow made a spectacular contribution. Perhaps a scribe devoured her house.
  - i. The widow challenged the mindset that says, "I'll give when I have more." The widow had virtually nothing, yet was a giver. This means that we can all please God with our giving just as much as the richest man can please God with his giving. Whatever we give sacrificially to God, He sees it and is pleased.