

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: I love God with my whole heart.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: None
WINDOW TO MY HEART: Kids create a colorful heart on special aluminum sheets.	SUPPLIES: Offering plate	SUPPLIES: Scratch paper, sharpened pencils, blunt pencils, cellophane tape, medium weight ArtEmboss™ aluminum sheets, fine-tip permanent markers in a variety of colors, heavyweight cardboard, paint shirts
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: I have a lot to offer.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
TIME, TALENTS, AND TREASURES TRIPTYCH: Kids craft a three-part collage of the gifts they can give.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Poster board, old magazines, scissors, glue sticks, pencils, markers, ultra-fine-tip black markers, craft supplies, craft glue, packaging tape
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: I am happy to share.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
HAPPY ME BANKS: Kids make a bank that features a self-portrait.	SUPPLIES: Bag of small candies, play paper money, pennies, offering plate	SUPPLIES: Empty coffee cans with lids, beige primer, pencils, acrylic paints, paper plates, paint brushes, paint shirts, water cups, paper towels, small mirrors, utility knife, drawing paper



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content. Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find a downloadable Family Page for this rotation's story filled with ideas for families to use to explore this story and live out their faith at home.

Workshop Focus: I love God with my whole heart.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit www.sparksundayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Widow's Offering Storytelling

Welcome! Show kids the offering plate. **What do we do when the offering plate is passed around during worship?** (*We put money into it.*) **That's how we give God our offering in worship today. In Jesus' day, they had a special box in the temple where people placed their offerings. Today, we are going to read a story about two people and their offerings.**

Open your Spark Story Bibles to The Widow's Offering on page 342. Read together (or aloud to the group) pages 342-345.

Look at the picture of the man on page 343. What did he do with his offering? (*He wanted people to see him make the offering.*) **Let's pretend we are his coins going into the money box.** Kids stand up and then fall to the ground and say "Clang" loudly. **Great job! You were the loud-clanging coins of the rich man.**

Look at the picture of the woman on page 345. What did she do with her offering? (*She tried to hide as she made her offering.*) **Let's pretend we are her coins going into the money box.** Kids stand up and then fall to the ground and say "Clink" quietly. **Great job! You were the quiet coins of the widow.**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
Offering plate

Does God want us to be like the bragging man or the humble widow? (*the widow*)
The widow loved God so much that she gave God her whole heart. What did the rich man give? (*some of what he had*) **What did the widow give?** (*ALL of what she had*)

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Window to My Heart

Set Up: ArtEmboss™ aluminum sheets are available at a craft or hardware store. You'll need the medium-weight variety. Cut heavy-weight cardboard into pieces just slightly larger than the aluminum sheets. Set out supplies. Put kids in paint shirts, since permanent markers do not come out of clothes.

Activity Instructions

We are going to make an art project that looks like a special church window made out of glass, called a stained-glass window. We'll make it with these sheets of aluminum and color them in with permanent markers.

1. Give each kid a piece of scratch paper and a sharpened pencil.
2. Instruct kids to draw a large heart in the center of the paper. Young artists tend to make things small, so encourage them to really fill the paper with the heart.
3. Show kids how to draw some straight lines all the way across the paper and through the heart.
4. Help kids tape their pattern on top of an aluminum sheet and set it onto a piece of cardboard.
5. Demonstrate to kids how to use a blunt pencil to trace their pattern so that it transfers onto the aluminum sheet below.
6. Help kids remove their paper pattern from on top of the aluminum sheet. If the lines on the aluminum sheet are not very deep, have the kids retrace them on the aluminum sheet itself.
7. Kids flip over their aluminum sheet to color it on the other side. Kids carefully color in their heart with the markers, choosing a different color for each area, making sure to color the areas outside the heart, too.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Scratch paper
Sharpened pencils
Blunt pencils
Cellophane tape
ArtEmboss™ aluminum sheets, medium weight
Fine-tip permanent markers in a variety of colors
Cardboard, heavyweight
Paint shirts

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Our "window" art projects help us remember to give our hearts to God, like the widow did in the story. What are some ways that we can use our giving heart for God? Talk about ideas of how to help others.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

You can keep your eyes open as we pray. Follow my motions and do what I do!

Hi God, (wave)

You love us so much! (hug self and rock back and forth)

Our hearts are full of your love. (put hands on heart)

We want to give you our whole hearts, like the widow did. (lift hands up as high as you can)

Fill our hearts with love. (put hands on heart)

For all your people. (lift arms out at your sides with palms up)

Amen. (clasp hands in front of your body)

Workshop Focus: I have a lot to offer.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Widow's Offering Storytelling

Welcome to Art! Today we are going to learn about the widow's offering. What is a widow? (*a woman whose husband died*) **In Jesus' time, many widows were very poor. What is an offering?** (*money the church collects for God's work in the world, gifts we give for God's work*) **We share our offerings in church. Sharing our offering is an important part of our life together as Christians. The money from our offerings helps us share God's love with others. Today, we are going to read an offering story from Jesus' time.**

Let's open our Spark Bibles to Mark 12:38-44 on page 1118. Ask for volunteers to read the story. Encourage kids to place an I Looked It Up sticker near the passage.

In Jesus' day, God's people didn't pass an offering plate like we do in church today. In Jesus' time, worshipers placed their offering money into a special box in the temple courtyard. Jesus was in the temple courtyard when he saw the widow put her offering in the box. Why did Jesus say that the widow put in more money than all the others? (*The widow gave everything that she had.*) **Why do you think the woman gave away all her money?** Encourage discussion around this question. **It took great courage and faith for the woman to do what she did. What do you think Jesus wants to teach us about the way that we should give?** (*God*

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

wants us to be generous, too.) Discuss the *Think About It!* question in the Spark Bible on page 1118 next to the story. Have kids place appropriate Spark Bible Stickers in their Bibles.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Time, Talents, and Treasures Triptych

Set Up: Set out supplies in a work area for the kids.

Activity Instructions

An offering can be money. But we can also offer other things to God. We can give God our time by volunteering. We give thanks to God for our talents by singing and doing art and playing soccer. This art project will help us discover the many, many things God has given us to offer. This project is called a triptych. That means it is one art piece done with three separate pieces that go together. You are going to create a mixed-media collage on each one. Your collage will give you a visual representation of three things you can offer God.

1. Give each kid a piece of poster board and instruct kids to position the board horizontally and fold it into thirds vertically. Poster board should be able to stand up. It will be longer than it is tall.
2. Instruct kids to write *Time* at the top of one third of the board, *Talent* at the top of the second third of the board, and *Treasure* at the top of the last third of the board. Brainstorm as a group about the time, talent, and treasure offerings kids can make.
3. Kids draw pictures of their offerings in each category, or glue on offering picture ideas from magazines. Kids can also add Bible verses and symbols. Encourage kids to utilize all of the art supplies available to make creative collages.

Give kids an opportunity to talk about their triptychs and explain what the images mean. Clean up the area together.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Poster board (not too thick),
1 per kid
Old magazines
Scissors
Glue sticks
Pencils
Markers
Ultra-fine-tip black markers
Craft supplies (various)
Craft glue
Packaging tape

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Our triptychs remind us of how much God has given us to share. God wants us to give generously. We all have lots to offer God. Help kids think of actual projects they could do in the future, in which they offer their time, talents, and treasures to God. Suggest serving opportunities at your church and/or in your community. Make a class commitment to fulfill one of the ideas.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Let's make a circle and join hands for our closing prayer.

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of The Widow's Offering. Please help us be generous with our time, talent, and treasure. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: I am happy to share.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Widow's Offering Storytelling

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Welcome to Art! Open a piece of candy and eat it in front of the kids. Try to keep it until you get a reaction from them. **Oh, did you want a piece of candy, too? It would be much nicer of me to share my candy, wouldn't it?! Okay, I'll share.** Pass the bag around so each kid gets one piece. **What happened when I shared? (Everyone was happier.) When you were happier, it made me happier, too. Sharing helps everybody. Jesus taught his disciples about sharing. Let's read that story now.**

Open your Spark Story Bible to The Widow's Offering on page 342, or look up Mark 12:38-44 in your Spark Bible on page 1118. When everyone has found the story in the respective Bibles, invite volunteers to read both versions. Have younger kids help those with Spark Bibles put a sticker into the margin.

Let's pretend we are the characters in this story. I need a volunteer to be the widow. Give the volunteer the two pennies. **The rest of you can be the rich people.** Give each kid at least two of the play money bills. Place the offering plate on the

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Bag of small candies
Play paper money, at least 2
per kid
Pennies, 2
Offering plate

table and have kids stand in a line in front of it. The widow character should be last. Each kid, in turn, steps up to the plate, waves the play money bills around, and then puts one of the bills in the offering plate. The widow puts in her coins quietly.

Who gave the most? (*the widow*) **But she gave less money than the rest of you.**

How can it be that she gave the most? (*She shared everything she had.*) **What do you think Jesus wants us to learn from this story?** (*We can share generously, no matter how much we have.*)

Collect the extra paper money from the kids.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Happy Me Banks

Set Up: Cover the cans in a coat or two of beige primer to create an optimal painting surface for the kids. This should be done in time that it will be thoroughly dry, preferably the day before. Cut a 2-inch (5 cm) slit in the top of each lid with a utility knife so it looks like a bank. Set out supplies in a separate supply area. Put a small amount of water in one paper cup per kid.

Activity Instructions

God loves a cheerful giver. We are going to paint self-portraits on these coffee-cans banks. These will be your Happy Me Banks banks to help you collect money you can joyfully offer to God.

1. Give each kid a coffee can. Instruct kids to use their pencils to carefully draw their face on the can. Kids should fill the whole space with their face and hair, as if the can were their head. Younger kids can simply include the basic elements: eyes, nose, mouth, hair. Older kids can use the mirrors to carefully observe themselves so they can paint a lifelike portrait that will be an artistic challenge.
2. Once they have drawn their faces, kids can come to the supply table to get a paper plate and squirt small amounts of acrylic paints on it. This serves as a cheap but effective paint palette. Kids also pick up a brush, water cup, and paper towel at the supply table. Make sure kids wear a paint shirt, because acrylic paints do not come out of clothing once they dry.

Circulate around the room to help kids. If kids finish early, they can paint a picture on drawing paper. Clean up the area together.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Empty coffee cans with lids,
1 per kid
Beige primer
Pencils
Acrylic paints in a variety of
colors
Paper plates
Paint brushes
Paint shirts
Water cups
Paper towels
Small mirrors
Utility knife
Drawing paper

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up. Before class, make one copy per kid of the Offertory Prayer found on page 29.

Set all the cans on the table and have the group walk around and observe them all. **You have created some amazing banks! They are each unique, just like you. They remind us that God is counting on us to be generous givers.**

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Copies of Offertory Prayer
(page 29), 1 per kid

Prayer Time

Hand out copies of the Offertory Prayer. **This is an offertory prayer that we can sometimes use in worship. We say this prayer as our offerings are placed on the altar. So let's pray it together.**

Because some kids may not yet be readers, pray this prayer one line at a time. You say it first, then they will repeat it.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:

Ourselves, our time, and possessions.

Use us, and what we have gathered,

In feeding the world with your love.

Amen. (ELW *Setting Two Communion*)

Have each kid place the offertory prayer into their Happy Me Bank. Encourage them to pray it regularly with their families, particularly when they put money into the bank. Remind them that the money they collect in the bank should be offered to God either by bringing it to church or donating it to a charity.

Offertory Prayer

<p>Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.</p> <p>Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:</p> <p>Ourselves, our time, and possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, In feeding the world with your love.</p> <p>Amen.</p>	<p>Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.</p> <p>Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:</p> <p>Ourselves, our time, and possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, In feeding the world with your love.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
<p>Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.</p> <p>Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:</p> <p>Ourselves, our time, and possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, In feeding the world with your love.</p> <p>Amen.</p>	<p>Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.</p> <p>Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:</p> <p>Ourselves, our time, and possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, In feeding the world with your love.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
<p>Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.</p> <p>Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:</p> <p>Ourselves, our time, and possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, In feeding the world with your love.</p> <p>Amen.</p>	<p>Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.</p> <p>Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:</p> <p>Ourselves, our time, and possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, In feeding the world with your love.</p> <p>Amen.</p>

