

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

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p>Lower Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God wants our all, even if it's small.</p> <p>CRACKER COINS: Kids make mini-pizzas from crackers and pepperoni.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Coin</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Round crackers, pizza sauce, pepperoni slices, sliced mozzarella cheese, fresh basil, soap, water, towels, oven, baking sheet, spoons, scissors, small circle cookie cutters or small glasses, cleaning supplies, oven mitts, serving spatulas, plates, napkins</p>
<p>Upper Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: To God, it'sy-bitsy is super-sized.</p> <p>CINNAMON COINS: Kids top french bread coins with cinnamon and sugar for a warm and crunchy treat.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Picture of a roller coaster, handful of screws and bolts</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: French bread, salted butter, sugar, ground cinnamon, vanilla extract, soap, water, towels, oven, cutting board, bread knives, baking sheets, mixing bowl, forks, measuring cups, measuring spoons, spreading knives, cleaning supplies, oven mitts, plates, napkins</p>
<p>All Kids</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: Little things make a big difference to God!</p> <p>CRUNCHY COIN BANKS: Kids create edible coin banks from crackers, like the offering chests of Bible times.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Jars, pennies, pictures or drawings of things your church's offering supports</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Honey graham crackers, frosting, mini-wafer cookies, soap, water, towels, cups, tablespoon, plates, napkins, wooden craft sticks</p>



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: God wants our all, even if it's small.

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.
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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Widow's Offering Storytelling

Hello, friends! Welcome to Cooking! Gather in a circle to play a coin game. **Let's play a guessing game!** Show the kids a coin. **I am going to secretly pass this coin around the circle. If it comes to you, pass it on. Slide your hands and the coin back and forth on the floor with your palms down and fingers closed.** After some time, stop the game. **Freeze!**

Choose a kid to guess who has the coin. If the kid guesses incorrectly, the person he or she guessed gets a turn to guess. After three incorrect guesses, reveal the coin. Play the game a few times.

Give each kid a Spark Story Bible. Help them open to The Widow's Offering on pages 342-345. **Let's read a Bible story of a woman who hides her offering coins. What sounds do coins make?** (*Clink, jingle!*) **As we read the story, make those sounds each time you hear the word *coin*.** Pause throughout the story for the kids to make coin noises.

How many coins did the man put in the offering box? (*eight*) **How many did the woman put in?** (*two*) **Who shared their coins in the way Jesus wants us to share?** (*the widow*) **It is more important to Jesus that we give from our hearts and not show off what we give. God wants us to share our all, even if it's small.**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
Coin

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Cracker Coins

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

Ingredients (serves 8)

- Round crackers, 32
- Pizza sauce, 15 ounces (425 grams)
- Pepperoni slices, 32
- Sliced mozzarella cheese, 16 slices
- Fresh basil

Set Up: Preheat the oven to 300° F (148.9° C).

Activity Instructions

Make sure the kids wash their hands with soap and water. **Before we touch any food, we need to wash our hands. Let's wash up!**

Gather around the ingredients and supplies. **Jesus and his friends, the disciples, gathered outside of a temple near the area where people dropped their coins in offering boxes. How do we give offerings at church?** (*offering plate at worship, in envelopes, at Sunday school, etc.*)

Pull out a sleeve of crackers and let the kids lay them out on a baking sheet. **In Jesus' time, people came to the courtyard outside the temple with their coins. Jesus taught his disciples about sharing in the temple courtyard.**

Give kids spoons. Help the kids spoon a little pizza sauce onto each cracker. **Jesus pointed out a rich man wearing brightly colored robes. Swirl your spoon to spread this rich sauce on the crackers. The man swirled his robes when he saw he was being watched.**

Hold up a slice of pepperoni and fold it in half to use it as a puppet. Put the sides of the slice together to move it like two lips of a talking mouth. **The rich man thought he was something special when he saw Jesus and his friends looking at him. "It is time for me to give to the poor!" he announced. He was a show-off.**

Give the kids each a pepperoni slice. **Make your pepperoni lips say some other things the rich man might have said.** (*Look at me! I'm rich! I am giving a lot of money to the church! I am great! You should give like me!*)

Direct the kids to top each cracker with a slice of pepperoni. **The man dropped lots of coins into the boxes with a loud "Clang!"** Give a couple of the kids clean spoons. **Each time we put a pepperoni coin on the crackers, clang your spoons together to make the sound of the rich man's loud coins.**

Guide the kids to clean, dry, and cut the leaves of basil into thin slices with the scissors. **Basil is an herb. It only takes a little bit of it to make a large flavor. It's**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Soap
Water
Towels
Oven
Baking sheet
Spoons
Scissors
Small circle cookie cutters or small glasses
Cleaning supplies
Oven mitts
Serving spatulas
Plates
Napkins

hard work to prepare the basil. The widow had to work hard for her money. She had no husband to support her or help her earn money.

As an example, lift a pepperoni and sprinkle a bit of basil underneath it, then rest the pepperoni on top again. **Jesus pointed out the widow. She was trying not to be noticed as she dropped in her small offering.** Drop a small offering of basil under each slice of pepperoni.

Give each kid two slices of mozzarella cheese. **She quietly dropped in only two coins. They were the only coins she had.**

Show the kids how to cut cracker-sized circles of cheese from the sliced mozzarella with small cookie cutters or a small sized glass. Have them set a slice of cheese atop each cracker.

Which example in the story does Jesus want us to follow? Why? *(the widow, because she quietly shared all she had)* **God wants us to share our all, even if it's small.**

Bake the crackers for 5 to 10 minutes, until the cheese is melted. While the crackers bake, work together to clean up the workshop area. **Let's share the work of cleaning up while our snacks bake.**

Use a spatula to serve the Cracker Coins on a plate, four per kid. **Eat up your Cracker Coins. Remember that Jesus wants us to share with a giving heart, like the widow.**

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.

The widow gave all that she had. Even though it was only two coins, Jesus was pleased with her giving heart. God wants us to share our all, even if it's small.

Prayer Time

Let's pass the coin around for a closing prayer. When the coin comes to you, name something you want to share with others. Take a moment to think of something to say. Allow a moment for the kids to think. **Let's pray.**

Dear Jesus,

You teach us to share our all, even if it is small. We want to share these things with you, our friends, and the world. The kids insert their prayer petitions as the coin goes around the prayer circle. **Jesus, help us be like you and share with love. Amen.**

Spark Resources
Family Page



Supplies
Coin from Open the Bible

Workshop Focus: To God, itsy-bitsy is super-sized.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Widow's Offering Storytelling

Set Up: Find a picture of an amazing roller coaster to share with the kids.

Activity Instructions

Welcome to Cooking! Show kids a picture of an amazing roller coaster. **How do you feel about roller coasters?** Share stories of riding (or not riding!) the popular thrill ride.

Point to the picture again. **How would you feel about riding this roller coaster if, just when you were about to be seated, I showed you these.** Hold out a handful of screws and bolts. **After putting the ride together, the workers still had these parts leftover. Would you still ride?** Discuss the kids' responses. **Sometimes, the little things make a big difference.**

Jesus recognizes that when it comes to giving, itsy-bitsy is super-sized. Let's read about a woman who gives a small offering.

Distribute the Spark Bibles and Spark Bible Stickers. Help the kids turn to the story in Mark 12:38-44, on page 1118. **The story is in the second book of the New Testament, in the book of Mark, in chapter 12, verses 38-44.**

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Picture of a roller coaster
Handful of screws and bolts

Read the story aloud. Encourage the kids to follow along in their Spark Bibles. **Stick a Makes Me Want To sticker near this story. What does the story make you want to do?** Allow time for responses.

What two people does Jesus compare? (*rich man, poor widow*) **What is it about the widow's offering that Jesus likes?** (*She gives all she has, even though it is only two coins.*) **Jesus teaches us that when it comes to giving, to God, even the itsy-bitsy is super-sized.**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Cinnamon Coins

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

Ingredients (serves 12)

- French bread loaves, 2
- Salted butter, 2 sticks/1 cup (250 ml), softened
- Sugar, 1 cup (110 grams)
- Ground cinnamon, 3 teaspoons (15 ml)
- Vanilla extract, 2 teaspoons (10 ml)

Set Up: Preheat the oven to 350° F (177° C).

Activity Instructions

Make sure the kids wash their hands as they begin to cook. **Please wash your hands with soap and water so we are clean cooks.**

While kids watch and count, slice the bread into 24 slices, about 1/2 inch (1.27 cm) thick each. Kids then use bread knives to cut out circles in the slices for “coins.”

Help the kids smash the butter with a fork in a large bowl. **Many people smashed into the temple's courtyard to give their offerings.**

Have the kids measure and pour in the sugar. Stir the mixture until it is well blended. **The rich man was making a big scene of dumping all of his coins into the offering box.**

Lead the kids to hit their forks against the side of the mixing bowl. **Clink, clink, clink . . . he wanted everyone to know how much money he was giving.**

Let the kids measure and add the cinnamon. Stir the mixture until it is well blended. **It only takes an itsy-bitsy amount of cinnamon to make a super-sized flavor in our snack. It only took an itsy-bitsy offering from the widow to get the attention of Jesus.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Soap
Water
Towels
Oven
Cutting board
Bread knives
Baking sheets, 2
Mixing bowl
Forks
Measuring cups
Measuring spoons
Spreading knives
Cleaning supplies
Oven mitts
Plates
Napkins

Guide the kids to measure and add the vanilla extract. Stir well. **One, two . . . the widow quietly put in her two, little coins.**

Hold up the empty measuring spoon. **After she gave her offering, her pockets were empty. The widow gave all she had. Her two coins were worth more to Jesus than all of the other coins combined. All of the others gave a few coins from the bag of coins they had. The widow gave everything she had, and she gave from her heart.**

Show the kids how to spread the cinnamon mixture on each “coin.” **Make sure you spread the yummy cinnamon mixture over the entire top of each bread coin. By showing the disciples how the widow gave, Jesus hoped the widow’s attitude for sharing would spread to them.**

Place the coins on the baking sheets. **It is hard to give up our coins, but God can turn our itty-bitsy offerings into something super-sized.**

Bake Cinnamon Coins for 10 minutes in the preheated oven. While the coins bake, work together to clean up the workshop area. **Let’s share the load of cleaning up the cooking workshop area while our coins bake. There’s sugar everywhere! Let’s think of it as Jesus’ lesson about love spreading into our lives.**

When the coins are bubbly and brown, remove them from the oven and serve two to each kid on a plate with a napkin. **When they are baked, the bread actually looks like copper pennies. Clink your copper coins together in a prayer toast before we chow down. God, bless these coins and the coins we give.** Kids push their bread coins together and make clinking noises. **Amen.**

As you enjoy your delicious Cinnamon Coins, discuss ideas for what you have to share. **We may not have money to give, but we all have something to share. What do you want to share with the world?** Allow time to explore each kid’s gifts. **What we think is an itty-bitsy gift to share is super-sized to God!**

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.

Jesus used the widow as an example. She gave a small offering, but it was a big sacrifice, because it was all she had. To God, her itty-bitsy offering is super-sized.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Prayer Time

Find your own space in the room to pray. In the prayer, when you hear the word *little*, make yourself as small as you can. When you hear the word *big*, stretch yourself out as big as possible. Listen carefully as we pray.

Dear God,

Thank you for noticing that the little things can make a big difference. The widow only gave two little coins, but she emptied her pockets and big heart to you, Lord. Give us big hearts to do and give the little things, too.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: Little things make a big difference to God!

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Widow's Offering Storytelling

Set Up: Set out several jars in various locations in the workshop area. Put a picture or drawing of specific projects your church supports near each jar: for example, school supplies, homeless, Bibles, a glass of water, canned goods, church building.

Activity Instructions

As the kids arrive, give them each a handful of pennies. **Welcome to Cooking! How do we give our offering in worship?** (*Put it in the offering plate.*) **What does our church do with our offerings?** Allow time for discussion. **In Bible times, there were 13 boxes set around outside the church. Each box was an offering for something specific. That way people could decide what they wanted to support.**

There are many jars with pictures around our room. You can decide where to deposit your pennies as an offering today. Ready, get set, go! Give the kids time to give their coins.

When everyone is done, hold up the jars. **All of your pennies really add up! Little offerings make a big difference to God! There's a widow in the Bible who gives a little offering. Let's read about her.**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Jars, 6
Pennies, handful per kid
Pictures or drawings of things
your church's offering
supports

Distribute the Spark Story Bibles and Spark Bibles. Help the kids find the story.

In the Spark Story Bible, turn to The Widow's Offering on page 342. What is Squiggles looking at? In the Spark Bible, the story is in Mark 12:38-44, on page 1118. Take volunteers to read the story aloud from both Bibles. Encourage the kids to follow along and look at the pictures as you read.

How does Jesus want us to share? (*generously, quietly*) **The widow quietly emptied her pockets to give her small offering to God.**

Give the kids the Spark Bible Stickers. **Choose a sticker to help you remember the story. Which sticker did you choose?**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Crunchy Coin Banks

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

Ingredients (serves 8)

- Honey graham crackers, 14.4 ounces (408 grams)
- Frosting, 16 ounces (454 grams)
- Mini-wafer cookies, 12 ounces (340 grams)

Set Up: Spoon 3 tablespoons (45 ml) of frosting into one small cup per kid.

Activity Instructions

Make sure kids wash their hands. **Let's wash our hands so we don't get any germs in our snacks.**

As you talk and walk the kids through the instructions, create a sample box for them to see and to use at the end of the activity.

Give each kid a plate of three crackers. **We used jars in the opening activity to collect coins. In Bible times, the temple courtyard held 13 chests, or boxes with lids, to collect offerings.**

Hold up one of the crackers, and break it into two equal pieces. **The Bible-time chests were a very public way to give offerings. Everyone could look and see if you gave one or two or ten coins. Break one of your crackers into two equal pieces, so you will have four crackers in all.**

Give each kid a cup with frosting and a wooden craft stick to spread it. **Form a rectangular box from your four crackers. The box will be open on the top and bottom, with two long sides and two short ends. Use the frosting as a glue to hold the four edges together.**

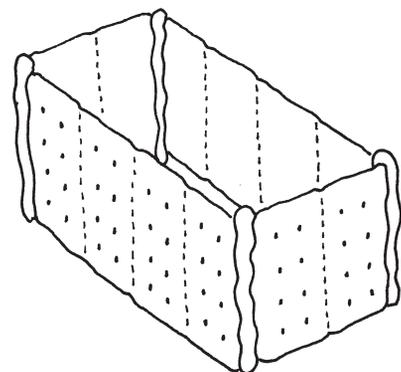
Help the kids to put their boxes together with the frosting.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Soap
Water
Towels
Cups
Tablespoon
Plates
Napkins
Wooden craft sticks



Many people used their offering time as an opportunity to show off how much money they had and how much they gave to the church. One time when Jesus was at the temple with the disciples, he used this scene to teach a lesson about giving:

Give each kid 10 mini-wafer cookies. **There was a rich man who made a big show of dropping in his large offering. Drop eight of your "coins" in your box. As you drop them in, make lots of clinking noises. The rich man made sure each coin made a loud noise. Eight coins was a big offering!** Drop the cookies one-by-one into the box.

Gather around the sample box. **Jesus didn't pay much attention to the rich man. Instead, Jesus' attention fell on an old and poor woman. She was a widow who had no husband to provide for her. She went to the offering chest and quietly dropped in only two little coins. It was all she had, and she gave it all to God.**

Invite the kids to drop their two remaining cookie coins into the sample box. Whisper to the kids: **We won't make any noises this time, because the woman did not want to be noticed. She just wanted to give what she could.**

Jesus saw the widow's small offering as a big sacrifice. Her two coins didn't look like much compared to all of the coins the rich man gave. Jesus saw that the widow gave even when she didn't have much. She gave with faith and generosity. She gave all she had.

Show the kids the inside of the box. **When we all drop in a couple of coins, they all add up to a lot of coins! Little things make a big difference to God!**

Lift up the sample coin box to empty it. Equally distribute the cookie coins to all of the kids. **Eat your Crunchy Coin Bank and cookie coins!**

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.

The widow gave all she had as an offering. When we give with a humble heart, little things make a big difference to God!

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
Coins from Open the Bible

Prayer Time

Give the kids three or four coins each. **Jingle your money each time we say coins in the prayer.** Pause in the prayer for the kids to clink their coins together.

Dear God,

Sometimes we feel like our few coins don't add up to much. Help us give our coins generously and quietly, like the widow. Give us humble hearts and coins to share.

Amen.

Take your coins to quietly give away this week.