

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: I can be generous.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: I Can Share, Save, and Spend Money Badges (page 93)
SHARE, SAVE, SPEND: Kids pretend to be money and practice generosity.	SUPPLIES: Bucket, pennies	SUPPLIES: Signs (Share, Save, Spend), paper, yarn, hole punch, scissors, markers
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: We are all rich!	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
RICH AND POOR, LESS AND MORE: Kids create skits that show how we can be rich in spirit and soul, whether or not we have money.	SUPPLIES: Whiteboard, whiteboard markers	SUPPLIES: Pencils or pens, paper; box for the following props: clock, ribbon, flowers, musical instruments, telephone, balls, magazines, swim goggles, scarf
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God is happy when we share.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
I DELIGHT GOD: Kids play charades, acting out the ways they delight God through sharing their talents and compassion.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: I Delight God Cards (pages 95-100), scissors, whiteboard, whiteboard markers, stickers, one-minute timer or watch with a second hand



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 can be generous.

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.sparksondayschool.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 to Drama! I wonder if you know what the word *generous* means.

(a person who shares with a glad heart) **Today we're going to learn about being generous. Which is more generous: giving away two pennies or giving away 100 pennies?** Give kids time to respond. **Let's read The Widow's Offering in our Spark Story Bibles to see which Jesus thinks is greater. Turn to page 342.** Read the story aloud.

Show kids a bucket of 102 pennies. Give two pennies to one kid and the entire bucket of 100 pennies to another kid. **Who has just two pennies? Who has 100 pennies?** Give kids time to respond. **Now, let's have each of them give two pennies away.** Have the kids each give away two pennies. **Who has given more?** Give kids time to respond. **[Name] gave away all the pennies s/he had. [Name] gave away just a small portion of what s/he had. Jesus says the person who gives more of what she or he has is a more generous giver.**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
Bucket
Pennies, 102

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Share, Save, Spend

Set Up: Prepare and place the Share, Save, and Spend signs in different locations in your space. Make a list of four charities or organizations that your church supports. These might include social service agencies, food shelves, disease research organizations, creation care organizations, and more. Copy and cut out (one per kid) the I Can Share, Save, and Spend Money Badges on page 93. Cut 18 inch (46 cm) pieces of yarn.

Activity Instructions

Today we're going to pretend to be money. There are three things we can do when we're money. First, money can be shared. Second, money can be saved. Third, money can be spent. Hand out money badges, yarn, and markers. **You get to decide how much money you want to be! These money badges will show the amount of money you want to be. Write the number and a dollar or cents sign on the front. Use the markers to color your money.** Give kids time to decorate their money badges. Punch a hole at the top of each kid's badge and thread a piece of yarn through the hole. Tie the ends of the yarn. Kids can then wear their money badges.

Now you get to pretend to be money. We're going to play four times. Each time you will have three choices about what you want to do as money. I can't wait to see what you choose.

Give kids time to decide where they will stand and have them stand by the sign of their choosing. Ask a couple of kids why they made that choice. Help kids do the math to see how much money ends up at each sign each time.

Scenario #1

If you want to be shared, and go to (charity #1 from your prepared list), **stand by the Share sign.**

If you want to be put in a bank, so that you can be saved up for new tennis shoes, stand by the Save sign.

If you want to be spent on an ice-cream sundae, stand by the Spend sign.

Scenario #2

If you want to be shared, and go to (charity #2 from your prepared list), **stand by the Share sign.**

If you want to be put in a bank, so that you can be saved up to get a special toy, stand by the Save sign.

If you want to be spent on a video game, stand by the Spend sign.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Signs (Share, Save, Spend)

Paper

Yarn

Hole punch

Scissors

Markers

I Can Share, Save, and Spend
Money Badges (page 93)

Scenario #3

If you want to be shared, and go to (charity #3 from your prepared list), **stand by the Share sign.**

If you want to be put in a bank, so that you can be saved up for college, stand by the Save sign.

If you want to be spent on lemonade at your friend's lemonade stand, go to the Spend sign.

Scenario #4

If you want to be shared, and go to (charity #4 from your prepared list), **stand by the Share sign.**

If you want to be put in a bank, so that you can be saved up for a trip to the zoo or water park, stand by the Save sign.

If you want to be spent on stickers, stand by the Spend sign.

If you have time, challenge kids to create more scenarios. What are kids' ideas for how they should be shared, saved, and spent? Talk to kids about a common idea for dividing their money in three, one-third for sharing, one-third for saving, and one-third for spending. Encourage kids to talk to one another about the choices they make.

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.

Invite kids to sit in a circle. Give each kid a penny. **Your penny stands for all the things in the world that can be done with money. During our prayer, hold your penny and pray for the place that your money can do the most good in the world.**

Prayer Time

Remain in your circle for the closing prayer.

**Giving God,
As we hold these pennies, show us how we can use all the money and stuff we have to do good in the world. Help us be generous, like the widow in the story.
Amen.**

Collect the pennies in the basket and place them in your church offering.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
Pennies, 1 per kid
Basket

Workshop Focus: We are all rich!

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

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- 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.
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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Widow's Offering Storytelling

Welcome to Drama! I know this is Drama, but let's start with a math problem.

When can \$2 be more than \$10 dollars? Give kids time to respond. **Two dollars can be more than \$10 when it's all the money you have, and you share it.**

When you have \$2, \$2 is 100 percent of all you have.

On the whiteboard, write $\$2 \div \$2 = 1$ (or 100%)

When you have \$100, \$10 dollars is 10% of all you have.

On the whiteboard, write $\$100 \div \$10 = .10$ (or 10%)

Which is greater: 100% or 10%? (100%) So sometimes \$2 can seem bigger than \$10. In our story today we learn that percents can be more important than amounts. Turn to Mark 12:38-44 in your Spark Bibles on page 1118. Have a kid read the story. Put a Spark Bible Sticker of your choice next to the story after you read it.

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Whiteboard
Whiteboard markers

What percentage of her money did the widow give? (100%) What does the widow give besides money? (loyalty, generosity, courage, humbleness, kindness, honesty) What will happen to the widow next? Listen to kids' ideas about this question.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Rich and Poor, Less and More

Set Up: Gather a box full of unusual props. They can include the props in the Supplies list, or others of your own imagination. Make sure there are enough props for every group of three or four kids to share three or four props.

Activity Instructions

The widow in our story didn't have much money to give, but she was rich in lots of ways. We can be rich in lots of ways, too. We can be rich in spirit, honesty, kindness, generosity, and many other good things God has given to us, whether we have money or not.

Today we're going to break into groups of 3-4 and create skits using props that show how we can be rich in lots of ways, whether or not we have money. Your skit should be short, just one or two minutes.

Here are some things to consider as you write and then perform your skit:

You can be rich in honesty, courage, talent, time, or kindness. For example, you might be really, really good at music. That's a way of being rich in music.

God wants us to share all our riches, no matter what they are. For example, God can use our kindness to help kids who are sick or who feel left out.

Our riches can make a big difference in the world. For example, our brains can help solve problems in the world, our Sunday school stories can help others know about Jesus, and our friendliness can help us invite others to church.

Have kids number off so that there are groups of three or four. Give kids time to look through the prop box, choosing three or four props they can use for their skit. Give each group paper and a pen or pencil and give kids 10 minutes to prepare their scripts. This concept of riches being more than money might be hard for some kids to grasp. Be sure to circulate among the groups and be available for questions. Have groups take turns performing their skits for the class.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Pencils or pens
Paper
Box for the following props:
Clock
Ribbon
Flowers
Musical instruments
Telephone
Balls
Magazines
Swim goggles
Scarf

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.

Invite kids to sit in a circle.

We did some math when we started today. Let's do some prayer math now. If our class prayed for twice as many as eight people, how many people would we pray for? (16 people) And if we prayed for double that amount of people, how many would that be? (32 people) I think we're getting rich in prayers now, don't you?

On the whiteboard, have the kids help you calculate, and then write down the following numbers as you keep doubling the number of people you want to pray for (calculate as high as you can without a calculator, then just write the remaining numbers). Have a volunteer read the numbers to you from this guide so you can write them quickly.

(64; 128; 256; 512; 1024; 2048; 4096; 8192; 16,384; 32,768; 65,536; 131,072; 262,144; 524,288; 1,048,576; 2,097,152; 4,194,304; 8,388,608; 16,777,216; 33,554,432; 67,108,864; 134,217,728; 268,435,356; 536,870,912; 1,073,741,824; 2,147,483,648; 4,294,967,296; 8,589,934,592)

There are nearly 7 billion people in our world. How many times did we have to double our numbers to pray for all the people in our world? (33 times)

Prayer Time

**God of all people,
Thank you for being so rich in love that you shared your life with us. Help us remember that we are rich in many ways, and that you want us to share our riches. The world is rich in people, O God. Thank you for loving all 7 billion of us.
Amen!**

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Whiteboard from Open the Bible

Whiteboard markers from Open the Bible

Workshop Focus: God is happy when we share.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Widow's Offering Storytelling

Welcome to Drama. Let's warm up with a song. Sing the song "If You're Happy and You Know It."

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (repeat)

If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it.

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

Repeat using:

If you're happy and you know it, blink your eyes . . .

If you're happy and you know it, give high fives . . .

If you're happy and you know it, sit and spin . . .

What makes God happy? Accept all answers. **When we share, it makes God happy. Let's read a story about a woman who made God happy by sharing what she had. Turn to The Widow's Offering on page 342 in your Spark Story Bibles or Mark 12:38-44 in your Spark Bibles on page 1118.** Read the story aloud. **If you are using a Spark Bible, put a red Spark Bible Sticker next to the story after you read it and respond to the sticker.**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

Give kids time to respond to the following. **Why do you think God was happy with the widow?**

Why could that widow give all her coins away? (*She loved God; God helped her share.*)

Tell someone next to you about a time when you shared something.

Tell a different about a time when someone shared something with you.

Which do you prefer: giving or receiving?

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

I Delight God

Set Up: Cut out the I Delight God Cards on pages 95-100. Mix them up.

Activity Instructions

When you delight someone, it means you make that person smile and feel happy. Today we're going to play charades to learn what kinds of things might delight God. Each charade completes the sentence "I delight God when I . . ." God is delighted when we share. We can share our money. We can also share our talents and our time. For example, if we have a talent for drawing, we can go outside and make pictures of the world God gave us. One way to share our time is to play with a friend. God is delighted when we use what God gave us.

Split the group into two teams. Make sure there are kids of all ages in both groups. Give the first player an I Delight God Card. Kids get one minute each to act out their card for their team. They cannot speak while acting out the card. If their team guesses correctly, give the team a point. Record it on the whiteboard. Move on to the next team. Play until the cards are gone or you run out of time. Give stickers to the winning team. If it's a tie, give stickers to everyone.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

"I Delight God" Cards (pages 95-100)

Scissors

Whiteboard

Whiteboard markers

Stickers

One-minute timer or watch with a second hand

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.

Today we acted out some ways we can share and delight God. What are some other things we can do that delight God? Give kids time to respond. **What does God share with us?** (*our families, friends, creation, Jesus, forgiveness, shelter, food, pets, etc.*) **Sounds delightful!**

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to stand around the room for the closing prayer. **Think of something you can share this week that would delight God. You're going to act that out during our prayer. Watch me and act out your idea when I do.**

God, who is tickled and delighted by us,

Be happy, God, when we do these things during the week. Have kids act out something that might make God happy. **Thank you for helping us do this, God!**

Amen.

I Can Share, Save, and Spend Money Badges



**I can
share,
save, and
spend.**

I Delight God Cards

I delight God when I . . .	I delight God when I . . .
I delight God when I . . .	I delight God when I . . .
I delight God when I . . .	I delight God when I . . .
I delight God when I . . .	I delight God when I . . .

sing

play baseball

share an ice cream
cone

dance

tell the truth

feed my dog

clean my room

come to church

I Delight God Cards

I delight God when I . . .	I delight God when I . . .
I delight God when I . . .	I delight God when I . . .
I delight God when I . . .	I delight God when I . . .
I delight God when I . . .	I delight God when I . . .

do the dishes

give my old clothes
away

put a bandage on
another person's
boo boo

draw a picture

hug someone

be brave

fold my clothes

read a book to
someone

I Delight God Cards

I delight God when I . . .	I delight God when I . . .
I delight God when I . . .	I delight God when I . . .
I delight God when I . . .	I delight God when I . . .
I delight God when I . . .	I delight God when I . . .

serve food at a shelter
or soup kitchen

put money in the
offering basket at church

blow bubbles

smell a flower

share the bigger half

give the remote control
to someone

go to bed on time

brush my hair