



The Poor Woman's Gift

Mark 12:41-44

One day Jesus was in God's beautiful Temple—the place where people came to worship God. Jesus and His friends were walking to the place in the Temple where people dropped money into the offering boxes.

Clatter! Clink! Clank! The coins made such a loud noise as they fell into the box. The rich people dropped their coins into the offering box at the Temple. These rich people had so much money that they were able to give many coins. They may have hoped people would think they loved God a lot because they gave so much money. Jesus sat nearby. He watched the rich people.

Soon the rich people finished giving their money. Then a poor woman walked quietly to the box. This woman did not have much money. She may not have had enough food. But she loved God very much. She quietly dropped two small coins into the box. The coins hardly made any noise at all. The woman turned and walked away.

Jesus said to His friends, "This poor woman gave more money than all the others."

Jesus' friends must have been surprised! *What was Jesus talking about? The rich people had given much more money than the poor woman.*

Jesus explained, "The rich people did put in more coins, but they only gave some of what they have. They still have plenty of money left over."

Jesus' friends thought about the woman's gift. She really had given more than the rich people. She gave all the money she had because she loved God.

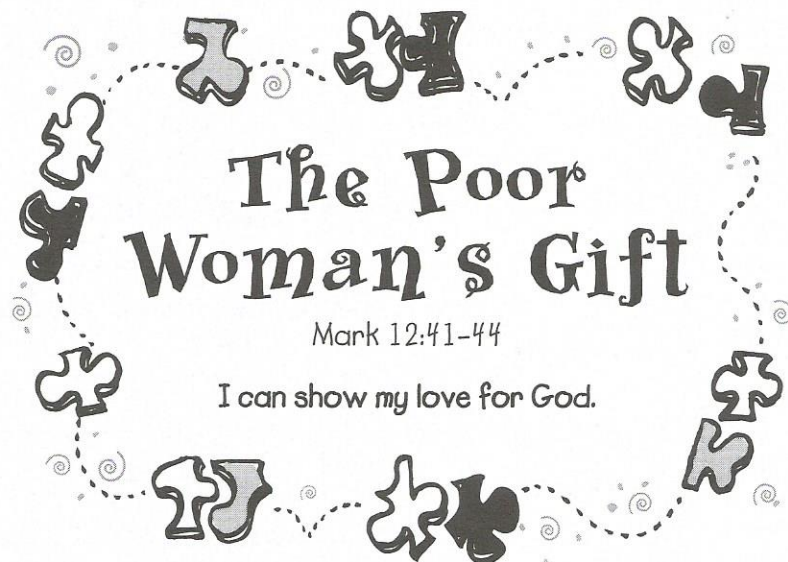
Play-Dough Coins

Collect

Bible, play dough, coins or ornately carved buttons.

Do

1. Children play with dough and make flat circles.
2. Children press coins or buttons into dough circles to make coin impressions.



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I can show my love for God.

Talk About

- ☺ In today's Bible story, Jesus and His friends went to the Temple. There they saw lots of people who were dropping coins into an offering box. One woman gave all her coins to show love for God. Let's use dough to make some pretend coins.
- ☺ Michelle, here is some dough for you to use. Thank you for sharing your dough with Melina. Sharing is a way to show your love for God. What are some other things you can share?
- ☺ Jordan, when we talk to God, we can show our love for Him. What can we say to God?

Enrichment Ideas

1. Provide the ingredients for a no-bake dough recipe. Children measure and mix ingredients to make play dough. To make colored dough, add drops of food coloring and then children mix dough.
2. Provide circle-shaped cookie cutters or empty film canisters and rollers for children to use in their dough play.





47

OFFERING POUCH

THINGS YOU'LL NEED:

- Paper plates
- Stapler
- Velcro dots
- Crayons
- Glue
- Paper punch
- A 30" length of yarn for each child

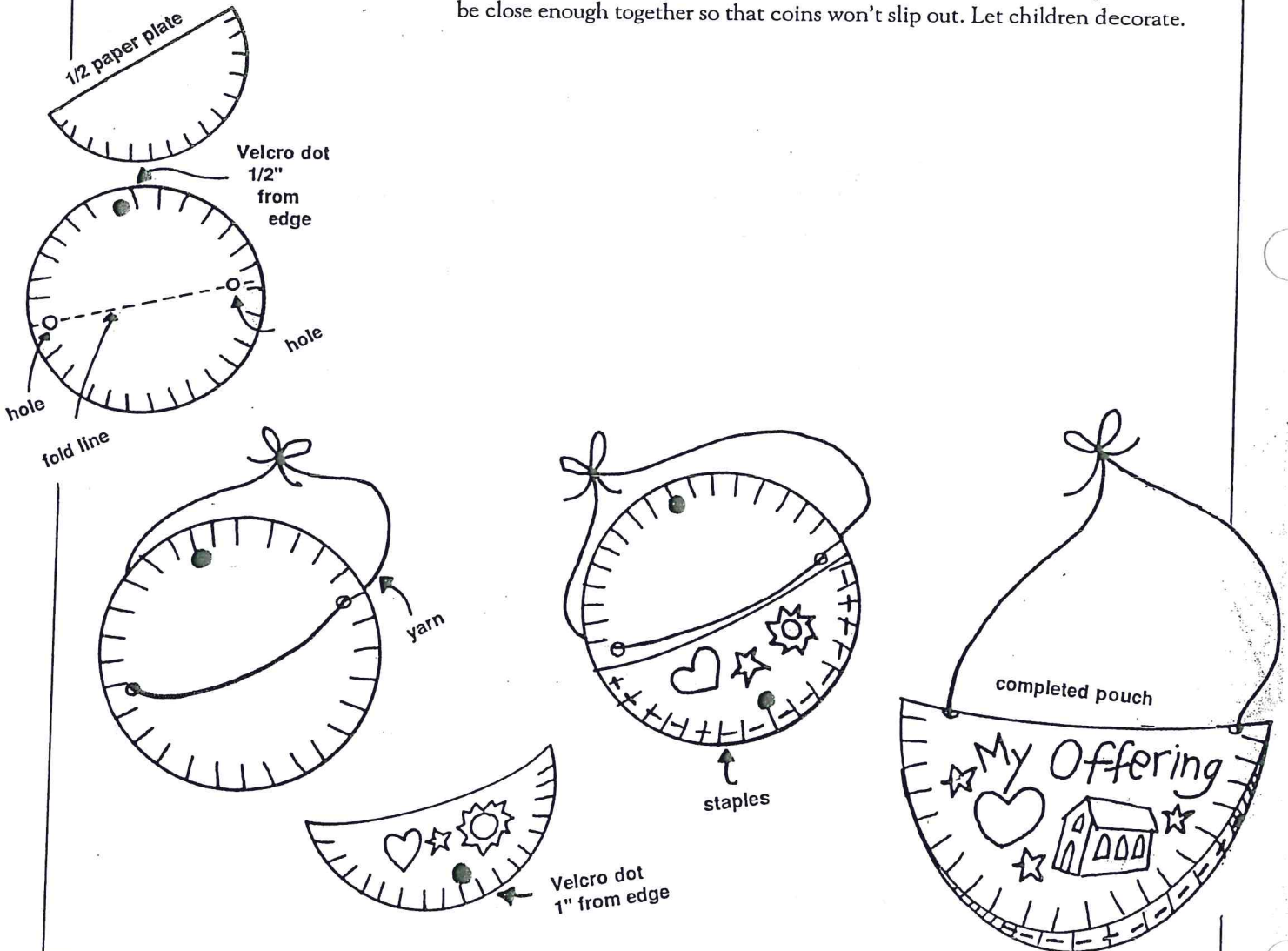
Prepare paper plates in this way for each child:

1. Fold a *whole* plate in half, then open it, and punch a hole at either end of the crease as shown. On the inside (the side from which you would eat) glue, and then staple, *one half* of a Velcro dot 1/2" in from the edge.

2. On the *half* paper plates glue, and then staple, the other half of a Velcro dot onto the bottom (or outside) 1" in from the edge as shown.

Take a 30" length of yarn and help children string the yarn in one hole and out the other. Then knot the yarn together to make a loop. (Tip: Wrapping the end of yarn with tape will make it easier to thread through the holes.)

3. Staple the half plates and whole plates together around the edge as shown (Velcro dots should be opposite each other), creating a pouch. Staples should be close enough together so that coins won't slip out. Let children decorate.



JESUS NOTICES A WIDOW'S GIVING

Mark 12:41-44

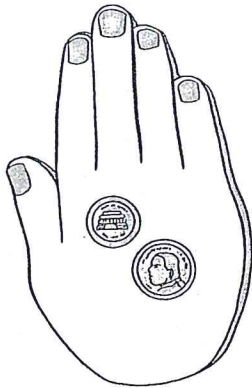
What Kids Will Do: Make hand reminders about loving God.

What Kids Will Need: craft foam, plastic coins, markers, scissors, glue, magnets

Preparation Place: Cut the foam into rectangles large enough for a child's hand to be traced on them.

EASY Steps

LOVING HANDS



1. Give each child a piece of craft foam. Help each child trace one of his or her hands on the foam.
2. Let children cut out the hand shape. Younger preschoolers may need assistance with this step.
3. Have children use markers to draw fingernails on their hand shapes.
4. Children may each glue two coins on the hand shapes. Then direct children to turn the hands over and glue magnets on the back.

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PRESCHOOL CONNECTION

When children have finished, collect craft supplies. Open your Bible to Mark 12:41-44, and read the story to children. Talk about what it might have been like to be a poor widow in those days. Ask:

- What did Jesus notice the woman doing?
- Why was the woman giving her two coins to God?
- How can you show God that you love him?

Say: One way we show our love to God is by giving our money and other things that are special to us. You can show your love to God by giving a special toy to a child who doesn't have any. Or you might give some of your birthday money to the church. Jesus was pleased when the woman gave all she had, and God is pleased when we give to him too.