

## The Widow's Offering

**Passage:** Mark 12.41-44

**Theme:** Christians believe that we should share what we have, even though that might not be very much.

**Resources :** Memory stick with song words and music; CD with music on; Laptop (check cable); Projector (check 2 cables); Extension lead; Schools team t-shirts (3 spare); Spare scripts.  
Collecting bowl; 2 bags of money with coins; 1 purse with 2 coins in; Walking stick; Jesus costume; rich people's costume; Widow's costume; Headscarf; Narrator script; rucksack; sunglasses; sleeping bag; Christmas presents; 50p

**Person 1 - Person 1, Rich Man, Introduction, Questions**

**Person 2 - Person 2, Poor Widow, Prayer & close, Song**

**Person 3 - Person 3, Jesus, Talk**

*[Before you start: Put collecting bowl at front; Put out Jesus' seat. Find teacher to narrate.]*

**Drama:**

[Person 3 sitting on sleeping bag, next to rucksack, begging with basket. Person 2 enters stage right in sunglasses, carrying pile of Christmas presents.]

Person 1 [stage right to children, pointing to Person 2]:

Hey, isn't that Jude Johnson, the reality TV star?

[Person 2 overhears, raises his/her sunglasses, tries to look cool]

Person 3: Have you got any change for a cup of coffee?

Person 2: [Looking disgusted] No, I haven't. What do you think I am - made of money?

[Person 2 walks off]

## **Introduction:**

Hello everyone, we are so pleased to be with you again! We're the Christ Church Schools' Team. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and this is \_\_\_\_\_ (*introduce team*).

In the Bible, Jesus had a lot of things to say about rich and poor people, about money and how people use it. He had tough things to say about people who were very religious in his time - they looked good on the outside - but they weren't very good at sharing. This is what happened one day when Jesus was sitting with his friends...

## **Story/Drama:**

[Person 1 in rich robes. Jesus sitting on stage, basket in middle. Teacher to narrate.]

Narrator: As Jesus sat near the Temple treasury, he watched the people as they dropped in their money.

Rich Man: [Making big show of tipping in money]

Rich Man: [Keep finding more money to tip in, look pleased with yourself, exit]

Narrator: Many rich people dropped in a lot of money.

Rich Man: [Continues to make a big show of tipping in money]

Narrator: Then a poor widow came along ...

[Poor widow enters in rags, drops two pennies into collection box and exits quietly]

[Jesus beckons as if he's drawing disciples around him]

Jesus: Do you see this poor widow? She dropped in two little copper coins, worth about a penny but I tell you that this poor widow put more in the offering box than all the others. For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, put in all she had—she gave all she had to live on.

## Talk:

We might have a lot, like Jude Johnson, the reality TV star in our drama, or we might have a little, but it's often difficult to share what we have, or even to give things away. Sometimes it can seem like we don't have much to share with other people, so we hang on tightly to what we've got. [Hold up the 50p and close your hand tight around it]

In the story we heard from the Bible, lots of people were giving lots of money and they thought they were great. But then came a widow - a woman whose husband had died. She doesn't have very much - only a couple of small copper coins. She could keep it all for herself... But instead, she gives away all she has. Jesus EVEN says she has put more in than all the rich people, because she has given all she has! Christians believe that we should share what we have, even if it's not very much.

[Hold up 50p] Have a look at this 50p. What could you buy with it? [Ask] Could you buy a homeless person a flat to live in with 50p? [Ask] Hmm. Looks like we haven't got enough to make a big difference. [Pause and look at the 50p] But did you know, if everyone in Winchester gave 50p, together we could buy a flat for a homeless person? All of us just giving 50p. [Put 50p in basket]

Christians believe we should share what we have, even if it's not very much. Try being generous with what you have, like the widow who gave her two copper coins. Perhaps if you have a favourite teddy, you could share it with your little brother or sister when they are crying. If you have a console, you could invite someone over to play on it. If you are talking to your friends in the playground, you could find someone who is on their own and share what you have, by spending time with them. We can share our time and our care, as well as our things.

We could just hang onto what we have [Close hand tight] but Christians believe we should share what we have, even if it's not very much.

**Song:** He's the King of Kings

## **Questions:**

I'm going to ask some questions, so you can show me how well you've been listening:

1. Who were the people that Jesus saw putting money in the box at the temple? [The rich people and the poor widow]
2. What did Jesus say about the widow? [That she gave more]
3. What do Christians believe we can learn from this story? [Christians believe we should share what we have, even if it isn't very much.]

## **Prayer:**

To finish our assembly, I am going to say a short prayer for us all. So, if you can please close your eyes so you aren't distracted and if you agree with what I say, you can say '**Amen**' at the end with me

Dear God, thank you so much for \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert school name*) school. Thank you that we have learnt from this story that Christians believe that we should share what we have, even if it isn't very much. Help us to share today. I pray that you would bless every child and every member of staff in this school. **Amen.**

## **Close:**

Thank you for having us today and we will see you again soon.