

LESSON PLAN

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT GIVING TO GOD

Mark 12:13-44

Lesson Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:7c - "God loves a cheerful giver."

Lesson Aim: Teach the children to give their money cheerfully to God with a heart full of love for Him.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): A pastor was taking a love offering for a missionary and he told the congregation to give as though you were putting your offering into the nail-pierced hand of Jesus. A young boy was going to put a dollar into the offering place, a big offering for him, but when he heard what the pastor said, he didn't put anything into the offering plate. Instead he decided that he would run home and get ten dollars that he was saving for a skateboard and give that to the missionary. Why do you think that he did that? He said that a dollar was not enough to put into the hand of his Savior. Our memory verse tells us what kind of giver God loves.

HE (for Authority): The Bible memory verse is found in 2 Corinthians 9:7. Who can find the verse in his or her Bible and tell me what kind of giver God loves? (Yes, God loves a cheerful giver.) Some people give gifts because they want to impress people with their big gifts, but do you think that is the kind of gift that God loves to receive from them? Some people give gifts because they want to make sure a place is ready for them in Heaven, but do you think that is the kind of gift that God loves to receive from them? Some people give gifts to God every Sunday out of habit. They were taught to give so they do it every week, but do you think that is the kind of gift that God loves to receive from us? God loves a cheerful giver; He loves a giver that is glad for the privilege to worship Him in this way.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our lesson today we will discover three things that God wants us to know about giving to Him.

I. Give God His Things - Mark 12:13-17

As citizens of the United States of America, we give money to the government in taxes. Why do we do it? (1) The government says we must do so; and (2) It is the government's money. Show the children that the bills and coins are marked "United Sates of America."

As Christians, we give money to God in **tithes and offerings**. We also give **alms**. What are these kinds of gifts? **TITHES** are 10% of what we earn. This belongs to God. **OFFERINGS** are gifts to God above the tithes. God deserves to receive good offerings from His people because He has given them work and strength and protection, and most of all, He has given them salvation and other spiritual blessings. When Christians fail to give God tithes and offerings what are they doing to God? Read Malachi 3:8-9; they are robbing God. **ALMS** are gifts we give to the poor, especially to those who are Christians (Gal 6:10).

WE: When we are Christians, we belong to Christ and all that we have belongs to Him. If we do not give God what He tells us to give back to Him, we are stealing from Him.

II. Give God Your Love - Mark 12:28-34

Christians are commanded to love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. Since our God is kind and gracious, it should be easy to love Him. We show our love for Him by keeping His commandments (Jn 14:15, 21, 23). But we are told not to give to God reluctantly or because we are commanded to do so (2 Cor 9:7). He wants us to give freely because we want to do it. He loves a cheerful giver that does it willingly.

Some people give their money to God because they expect He will give them a better job, a nicer home, a bigger car or more money than they gave to Him. They give because they want God to give them more; they really love themselves, not God. God has already given them more than they deserve.

WE: We all have sinned and deserve to go to Hell, but God loves us and has made it possible for us to be saved from Hell and has opened the door for us to go to Heaven. So we should give our gifts to Him to show our love for Him. We can give to God without loving Him, but we cannot love God without giving to

LESSON PLAN

Him. Do we love God? The more we love Him, the more we will give (Luke 7:36-50). So we should give to show our love and appreciation for what He has given to us.

III. Give God Your Money - Mark 12:41-44

There were thirteen trumpet-like funnels in the Women's Court of the Temple where the people could give their money to God. Each funnel had a label which told of the type of work each fund would support. Jesus watched the continuous line of people that gave their gifts to the temple work. Jesus contrasted the gifts of the rich men with that of a poor widow and taught His disciples a valuable lesson in giving.

The rich men gave large amounts of money and the poor widow gave two mites which was the least amount of money a person could give according to the Temple law. She gave 1/64th of a denarius. A denarius was the pay a common worker would earn in one day. In those days a denarius was worth 18 cents in silver. In our society two mites would be worth about 5 minutes of work. It was a small gift indeed! Yet Jesus said she gave more than the rich men gave because she gave all she had. The rich men still had money left after they gave what they could use for their comforts, but the widow had no money left to even buy the next meal. She would have an empty stomach because of the gift that she gave to the Lord. Do you love the Lord enough to give Him a gift that will cause you some discomfort? That is the sign of a truly great gift.

Also notice that Jesus did not stop the poor woman from giving all that she had. Instead He commended her kind of giving to His disciples. He knew that she would have an empty stomach, but He also knew that she would have a full heart. Furthermore, He knew that His heavenly Father would take care of her. We cannot give more to Him than He will give to us.

WE: When we give our sacrificial gifts to Him, we can depend on Him to take care of us. Read Matthew 6:19-24 for a good reason to have a full heart when we give to the Lord. Read Matthew 6:25-34; II Corinthians 9:6 and Luke 6:38 for some proof that we cannot give more to the Lord than He gives to us. We can trust the Lord to take care of us when we give our gifts to Him.

BE (for Action): Is it right to take God's money and spend it for soda or for candy? Is it right for you to spend God's money (the tithe and offerings) for any of your pleasures? Should you give God a tithe on the gifts that you receive, such as Christmas gifts and birthday gifts? What should you do with money that belongs to God? How should you feel when you give money to the Lord? (Cheerful) Review the business of giving tithes, offerings and alms by asking them what each means. Ask older children how much a person should give to the Lord in tithes if he earns a dollar.

What is a person doing if he does not give a tithe of what he receives for an allowance, for work or for gifts?

Lead them to confess their sins if they have been robbing God.

Ask them how many want to give God tithes and offerings because they love Him. Pray for them to be cheerful when they give their tithes and offerings to God.