



Date: _____

Series: Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and...
Winter Year 2, Lesson 44

Get a Giving Heart

Take Home Point: *Jesus gave up his life so we can get a giving heart. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Mark 12:41-44. The widow gave her pennies.

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:7b, "God loves a cheerful giver."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of the widow's offering.
- Jesus notices not simply the amount given but the proportion and the size of the heart that gives it.
- We give, not because we are compelled or forced to give, but we give out of a heart of thanksgiving.
- God gave the best of what he had for us and that was his Son Jesus. This is why we give our best to him thankfully.




We will help kids feel:

- Tension as they wrestle with the value of giving up one of their favorite toys for a Christian cause or keeping the toy for themselves.
- Joyful as they give and share with another.

We will help kids do:

- Identify something they could give up as an offering to God by giving to another person who is in greater need.
- Regularly remember to bring their offering and give it cheerfully.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	As children express value for their favorite toys, children are asked to consider Jesus' sacrifice for us.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> each child brings their favorite small toy no other supplies
Large Group 	3 7-8 9 10 10 11-13	Overview Meet Jesus the Sacrifice Audience Participation Game: "Meet Jesus the Sacrifice" Game Show –Kids will try to guess, "Meet Jesus the sacrifice and get a giving heart." Video: <i>JESUS</i> from the JESUS Film Project –Jesus encounters the woman who gave an offering of two mites. Bible Reading: Mark 12:41-44 with Observation Questions The Final Challenge: Kids are asked if they would be willing to give up a special possession.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>JESUS</i> video from the JESUS Film Project (Inspirational Films, 1979) sign: "Meet Jesus the Sacrifice Game Show" small sign attached to the treasure chest that reads "Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and ..." a sign inside the treasure chest that reads "Get a _____." Valentine heart placed in the treasure chest pie plate with a piece of candy hidden in a pile of whipped cream egg timer or a timer with a bell Gordy, the puppet large crate or box for toys to be placed in (see lesson)
Small Group Application 	4-6	After discussing Jesus' sacrifice for our lives, kids are given two options to challenge them to develop a giving heart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> giant paper coin for each child (p. 14) pens or pencils

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Key warm-up question:

What is a favorite toy that you have, and what makes it so special to you? Would you tell us about the toy you brought today?

The critical component of today's lesson is that the children bring a favorite toy from home. It must be a toy that is small enough to be easily carried and can be taken into large group. A note should have been passed home last week challenging kids to bring a favorite toy and talk about it.

Let the kids share among themselves their favorite toys and each tells why the toy is so special. After they have done that, ask the kids:

What would you trade for your toy? What would it take for you to give up your toy?

It might even be interesting to let some children pretend to bid on other kids' toys to test their value.

Have kids bring their toys with them to large group. Here is the catch. There they will be asked to give up their toys for a mission project. Who will be able to do it and who cannot?

Encourage the children to bring their Bibles along to large group.

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Audience Participation Game: "Meet Jesus the Sacrifice" Game Show – Kids will try to guess, "Meet Jesus the sacrifice and get a giving heart."

Video: *JESUS* from the JESUS Film Project –Jesus encounters the woman who gave an offering of two mites.

Bible Reading: Mark 12:41-44 with Observation Questions

The Final Challenge: Kids are asked if they would be willing to give up a special possession.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Typically, observation questions are discussed in the small group. However, during this series, observation questions will be given in the large group as the children follow along in their Bibles.

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

The purpose of today's small group will be to make application of Jesus' sacrifice in our lives. Consequently, we can now have a giving heart.

What was so hard about giving up something so important to you?

(This discussion question can go quickly, but helps the kids process their feelings. The kids need to understand that their toys are a gift from God, and there is nothing wrong with wanting to have toys. There can be something wrong, though, when our possessions get so important to us that we would rather have them than be willing to give them up for the Lord.)

What did God sacrifice for us? What do we get as a result? *(God gave his own Son Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins. That is the biggest gift ever given in the entire universe. He gave this gift to us individually and personally. (Name kids to make it feel more personal.) Because of God's giving heart and what he gave up, if we know Jesus, we can also have a giving heart. We will be able to give up things for others.)*

Lead the children in the following mental exercise.

Close your eyes and picture God. Picture how big he is. He stands and looks over the entire universe. There are millions of stars and billions of planets. He made them all just by speaking a word. He made this entire planet and all the animals. Picture the zoo and the wonderful variety of birds, tall animals, and small animals. Picture the forest, the desert, and the ocean. He made them all.

Now picture you. God knows how many hairs are on your head. He loves you more than your mom and dad love you. He wants to be close to you right now and forever. The thing that gets between you

and him is that, unless you are perfectly holy, you cannot live in heaven with him. You have sinned. Everyone has.

Now God wants to trade someone to take your punishment for you. He wants to trade so someone can make you completely right in his sight and you can live with him forever. Who would God sacrifice to do that? He gave his own Son Jesus, whom he loves more than anything else in all creation. He loves Jesus more than the stars, more than the mountains or oceans, and more than the animals or plants. The most precious thing to God is his Son Jesus. Yet, God gave his Son to die on the cross so that you can live with him forever.

Do you see how wonderful that is? Do you see how much God gave to you? He gave everything. Does that make you want to give back to him? Maybe like the widow in today's story, you would like to give everything. Let's talk about that more. You can open your eyes.

Application Activity:

In today's Bible event, we learned that **Jesus gave up his life so we can get a giving heart.* The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 9:7b, "*God loves a cheerful giver.*" Can you be a cheerful giver?

The kids will now be challenged to use their giving heart in response to what God has done for them. Here are some options.

Option 1: Have the children discuss how they can contribute to the mission project announced in large group.

Option 2: Challenge the children to really give up a toy as a gift for the Lord. The way they could give it to the Lord is by finding someone in their class, at school, or in their neighborhood who seems to not have very many friends or needs a special type of encouragement. They could give a toy to this person and simply say; "God wanted me to give this toy to you just to cheer you and to let you know that you are very special to him."

Much discussion can be done around this event. Children need to think of the toy and the person to whom they would give it. They should know that they are not just giving a gift to that person, but they are giving a gift to the Lord to bless that special friend.

Encourage the children to really pray for their special friend and ask God if there might be anything else he would want them to do for this friend.

Give each child a giant paper penny. Tell them it reminds us of the widow's offering. Ask the kids to write on the penny the name of the person that they will be praying for and giving a gift to. Next week, if they have given their toy to the special friend, they can take the penny and lay it in the offering plate.

Review the take home point:

****Jesus gave up his life so we can get a giving heart.***

Closing Prayer:

Pray for God's Holy Spirit to create in all a giving heart. Ask God to help kids practice that giving heart in everything this week. Mention the names of the special friends who will be receiving gifts this week and ask for the givers to have courage in witnessing to these friends.

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice Series

This six-week series helps children understand that Jesus gave himself as a sacrifice. This is a key concept. Jesus gave up something so we can get something. Each week we explore an aspect of how Jesus gave up his life for us so we can have a new life in him.

Treasure Chest: *A treasure chest will be used from week to week. Each week there will be a different object that illustrates what we might receive as we meet Jesus the Sacrifice. With the object is a sign that contains blanks where the audience will guess the main phrase. For example, the first week we meet Jesus the Sacrifice and get “Jesus as Lord.” The object in the treasure chest is a crown and the sign will say, “Get _____ as _____.”*

“Meet Jesus the Sacrifice” Game Show: *This audience participation game show is a version of Charades. We recently played Meet the God/Man Game Show that involved kids up front. This game show involves shepherds up on stage trying to help the audience guess the blanks that fill in the special phrase for the day. Two shepherds try to be the first to have their respective half of the audience guess the mystery phrase for the week. OPTION: If there are too many kids in the audience that make the guesses hard to discern, pick teams of kids to come forward to guess each shepherd’s clues. The losing shepherd has to do something yucky like eat baby food or chocolate pudding without a spoon.*

Video: *Each week the large group will see a short clip from the video, JESUS from the Jesus Film Project. Typically, the video clips are approximately two minutes each, except for the last two weeks when they are approximately 12 minutes each. Use a video imager or large screen TV, if possible.*

Bible Observation: *The Bible event will be read in large group while children follow along in their own Bibles. Kids should be reminded to bring their Bibles to large group. Simple observation questions will be asked during large group and kids can use their own Bibles to find the answers.*

Week 1: Triumphant Entry (Video length: 2:05)

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and...get Jesus as Lord.

**Jesus gave up his life so we can know Jesus as our Lord.*

Week 2: Cleaning Up the Temple (Video length: 1:53)

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and...get clean on the inside.

**Jesus helps us get clean on the inside.*

Week 3: Widow’s Offering (Video length: 0:38)

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and...get a giving heart.

**Jesus gave up his life so we can get a giving heart.*

Week 4: Gethsemane (Video length: 2:14)

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and...get to be sons and daughters of God.

**Jesus gave up his rights as Son of God so we can get a new status as sons and daughters of God.*

Week 5: Arrest and Trial (Video length: 12:27)

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and...get freedom.

**Jesus gave up his freedom so we can get true spiritual freedom.*

Week 6: Crucifixion (Video length: 11:17)

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and...get life forever.

**Jesus gave up his life so we can get life forever.*

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice Game Show Audience Participation Game

This audience participation game is a version of “Charades.” The game show host will invite two shepherds from the audience to come forward. The audience is divided in half with each half working with one of the two up front shepherd contestants. *OPTION: If there are too many kids in the audience that make the guesses hard to discern, pick teams of kids to come forward to guess each shepherd’s clues.*

A treasure chest with clues and signs will be needed each week. Two signs are needed for the setting of the show throughout the series: One large marquee---“Meet Jesus the Sacrifice Game Show” and another sign placed above the treasure chest: “Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and ...” Each week a new sign will be taken out of the treasure chest along with an object. This week's sign reads, “Get a _____ .” The words to guess are “get a giving heart.” Along with this sign, a heart is placed in the treasure chest to serve as a clue.

The two shepherds compete with one another until one of the children guess the phrase that is being acted out. The losing shepherd today will be required to find a piece of candy hidden in a pile of whipped cream with his hands behind his back. Have an extra action available in case of a tie breaker. For example, have each shepherd act out a different animal.

Option: Use an egg timer and allow only a certain number of seconds to solve the puzzle. Ring a bell or buzzer when time is up. You need to decide what is most appropriate and challenging for your group. You might start with thirty seconds. Adjust accordingly so that the kids usually win.

Review a few of the standard signs for playing Charades. Holding up one finger signifies “first word”. Cupping one’s hand over an ear signifies “sounds like.” Making enthusiastic gestures of inviting someone to come closer signifies “getting closer to the word.”

After game, have the contestants exit and go quickly into the puppet script.

Video JESUS from the JESUS Film Project

Gordy enters briefly to help the presenter introduce the video.

Gordy: Wow, Mr. King! I sure would like to be the one to lick up whipped cream and find candy!

Mr. King: Maybe next time, Gordy. We are now going to watch a brief section of a movie called JESUS. Watch carefully because you will see less than a minute. This section happens during the last week of Jesus' life.

Remember last week how Jesus cleaned out the temple of people who were using it to cheat others out of their money. Now Jesus is back at the temple again. He is watching the people bring their offerings of money to the Lord. While he is watching, he notices something very special that everyone else missed. I wonder if you can tell what it is? Watch this.

Show the section of video with Jesus encountering the woman who gave an offering of two mites.

Bible Reading: Mark 12:41-44

Read the Bible passage inviting the kids to follow along in their own Bibles. Remind kids to bring their Bibles from small group warm-up!

OPTION: The section of scripture can be put on overhead to make it easier.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Typically, observation questions are discussed in the small group. However, during this series, observation questions will be given in the large group as the children follow along in their Bibles. It will be important that the large group presenter moves through the crowd with a microphone or quickly calls on kids with answers so this portion of the lesson does not drag. He should also give the Bible references of where the answers are found. If a child gives an incorrect answer, the large group presenter can refer to and read the correct answer from the text. The reward for a child's correct answer can be a piece of candy or simply giving the chance to speak into the microphone.

To help make this fun and interactive, the kids can compete with Gordy. He answers first and usually gives wrong answers which the children can gladly correct. (Comments marked in parentheses are Gordy's.) This should help hold the children's attention, but, obviously, care needs to be taken so that Gordy does not upstage the message.

- 1. Jesus was watching people put their money in something. Where was he and where were the people giving their money? (Mark 12:41.)**
(The video arcade and they were pumping in quarters.)
The temple. People were putting their offerings in offering boxes shaped like 13 trumpets around the outside of the temple.
- 2. What did Jesus say as he watched rich people put in lots of money? (Mark 12:41.)**
(“Way to go, buddy! That’s lots of cash.”)
He did not say anything about their offering.

3. How many coins did the widow put in? (Mark 12:42.)

(A penny.)

That is almost right. There were two small coins that together were only worth a penny.

4. Jesus said something was very special about her gift. She gave more than anyone else. Why was that? (Mark 12:44.)

(She also dropped her credit card in.)

She gave all she had. The rich people gave more money, but it was not anywhere near all that they had. This is a key point. As a widow, she would be very poor and probably had no way to earn money. The few pennies she did have would likely be all she had to buy food.

Why did she give it? She gave it because of her love for God. She had a giving heart. Maybe some of the rich people gave their money so others would notice their gifts and think well of them.

The Final Challenge

Gordy can continue to ad-lib during the next presentation. The large group presenter should talk about a new or recent mission project to give toys to children in another land such as Haiti, India, or another ministry your church sponsors. As a special effect, have a large crate or box labeled with the country's name. After telling about this mission project, the large group leader proceeds with:

Kids, you have heard how the widow gave up all she had because she had so much love for God. What about you? What would you give up?

Consider this. Think about how much Jesus loves you. Jesus gave his life for you. He died on the cross so your sins would be removed from you and you would be friends with God now and forever. You have Jesus' love now working in your life. If you have met Jesus the sacrifice, do you have a giving heart like the widow? Would you be like the widow and give something very precious back to God?

The kids we described don't have toys. Would you give your favorite toy to them? It would be like a gift to the Lord. Of course, you don't have to give up your toy, but you can if you want to.

This is how you can give it. We are going to stop and let you think about it for one minute. Everyone will be very quiet during this time. Then we will be dismissed. When you are dismissed, if you want to give your toy, you can leave it in the box up here as you leave.

We don't want to do this to get noticed by others so we won't watch who gives their toy and who doesn't. If you give it, it is because you want to show your giving heart to Jesus, not to others around. It's

okay if you don't give it. It doesn't mean that you don't have a giving heart. This is a very difficult thing to do.

After a minute, the large group leader continues.

Kids are you ready? Have you made up your mind? Are you going to give something as precious as your favorite toy to some other poor children for the sake of Jesus? Okay, let's leave now...

As the kids begin to leave, stop them and have them return to their seat.

Kids, I have a special announcement. We aren't going to take your special toy. Actually, it wouldn't be quite fair to surprise you by asking you to give up your toy when we didn't tell you that was the reason you were bringing it. But we did want you to feel what it was like to give up something very dear to you. You will talk about that in your small group.

Think about how God himself gave up what was most important to him—his Son Jesus. He did this because it was the only way you and I could be saved from our sin and be put back together with God.

Now here is the good news. We are going to have a mission project that you will have a chance to give to some children with great need.

Explain your own mission project that, hopefully, will directly link the children's donations with a special need. For example, one church sent a shipping crate of used children's clothes, toys, and school supplies to orphans in India. For more information as to where you might get worthwhile mission projects, see the Helpful Hints for this curriculum unit.

When presenting your mission project, show a video or slide show or invite a guest speaker to make the need more real and personalized for the kids.

Gordy: You really scared me, Mr. King. I thought I was going to have to give up my new soccer ball.

Mr. King: **Gordy, we would never *make* you give up something. Our key verse today says, "*God loves a cheerful giver.*" But now you can feel a little what it was like for the widow who gave her last coins to the Lord. She sacrificed everything she had.**

Gordy: Yes, and God gave up his Son Jesus for me and for the whole world. He must love us a lot!

Mr. King: **He really does, Gordy. **Jesus gave up his life so we can get a giving heart.* Would you say a closing prayer for us?**

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, thank you for loving us so much that you gave up your Son Jesus for us. Please help us to have giving hearts like you and like the widow who gave everything she had. Help us to be cheerful givers because we are thankful for all you do. In Jesus name, Amen.

Lesson 44 – Small Group Application

