

Teach Me to Worship

THIS MONTH
We Will...



Learn

Week One—The Right Reason

Week Two—The Right Offering

Week Three—The Right Focus

Week Four—The Right Amount

Read

- Malachi 3:8-12
- Genesis 4:1-7
- Ezra 2:68-69
- Exodus 35:4-5, 20-22, & 29
- Luke 21:1-4

Sing

- “This Is My
Father’s World”

Memorize

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, **for God loves a cheerful giver.**”

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Children’s Worship Curriculum *from*

cdm
DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES



The Right Amount

SUPPLIES

Needed



TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)*

TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs*
(Optional: guitar or music to sing along with)
- Basket for offering*
- Supplies needed for Hearing the Word activities: Masking tape, plastic containers, rolls of pennies, and fake bags of money

OPTIONAL:

- Kid's Activity Sheet (1 copy/child)
- Elements of Worship Icons*
(Found in the introduction section.)

*These items will be needed every week.

LEADER'S Review

Attitudes in life are tricky to understand. They are easy to change and manipulate to make a situation more appealing for our circumstances. We seem to think no one knows when we are using them for our own advantage.

I always had a problem when I was told to apologize to my brother. I never wanted to, but I had to. If I didn't do it with the right attitude, I had to "apologize like I meant it!"

The same goes for our giving of tithes and offerings. We can give loads of gifts in thanks to God, but that doesn't always indicate we really mean it. Look at the religious leaders of Jesus's time. They did numerous things without a whole heart, even those things God commanded them to do.

Those leaders hoped their attitudes would seem like they were giving out of grateful hearts, but God knew each heart, and Jesus was able to speak to those actions.

As we have talked about tithes and offerings all month, we might have some children who will think that giving is one more "Christian activity" to check off their list of things to do. We must encourage them to recognize the actions of God that fuel our own actions. We, even more than those in Jesus's time, have so much for which to give thanks. The main focus of our thanks is the life of Jesus given for us.

This is my Father's world:

The battle is not done:

Jesus Who died shall be satisfied,

And earth and Heav'n be one.

(Verse from "This Is My Father's World")





Reading of the Word

Read Scripture. (1 minute)

Luke 21:1-4

Just then he looked up and saw the rich people dropping offerings in the collection plate. Then he saw a poor widow put in two pennies. He said, “The plain truth is that this widow has given by far the largest offering today. All these others made offerings that they’ll never miss; she gave extravagantly what she couldn’t afford—she gave her all!” (*My First Message*)



Prayer

Have a prayer of confession for not having a right heart as we give and a prayer of thanksgiving that the Lord forgives all of our sins. (1-2 minutes)

Dear Lord Jesus, we confess we often do not have the right attitude about giving. Often, we give expecting something in return or give begrudgingly. Let us be cheerful givers, grateful for the many blessings You have already given to us. Thank You for hearing our prayers and forgiving our sins. In Your name we pray. Amen.



Hearing the Word

Teach the lesson to the children using the text below as a guide. (10-13 minutes for lesson; 15-20 minutes for activities)

Last week, we talked about the Israelites bringing in their tithes and offerings. Let’s see what you remember!

Review Questions:

- What was going to be built with the money the Israelites gave? *The Tabernacle and Temple*
- What else did their money go to? *To support the priests and their work*
- How did the Israelites feel about the Temple? *They thought it was really important.*
- Did they give just what was required of them? *No, they gave even more.*
- What does our money at church go to? *Supporting the work of the ministry—spreading the good news of Jesus, helping the poor, a new building, etc.*

We have seen throughout this month part of our worship is giving our tithes and offerings. Since God has given us everything, giving part of our money to God is how we can say, “Thank You.”

What was the last present you got? A birthday present, a Christmas present, a good report card present? When you received that gift, how did you thank the person who gave it to you? Was the gift something you wanted, or was it something you weren’t too thrilled about? Sometimes when we get a gift that we aren’t excited about, it’s hard to say “thank you” for it and really mean it.

(Hearing the Word–Continued)

The Bible tells us every good and perfect gift comes from God. Do you think something that might seem bad to us could actually be something that is good in God’s eyes? Today, let’s see what our lives might look like if we can see all things in life as good gifts from God and how we can respond to those gifts, even to those gifts that look bad to us.

Let’s pray. “Dear God, thank You for Your gifts to us. Please help us to know You know what is best for us and to have grateful hearts for what You give. Amen.”

Jesus was talking with the religious leaders of His day. The leaders wanted to prove Jesus wasn’t who He said He was. They were never able to do that, but Jesus knew the hearts of these leaders who didn’t really love God. Jesus said if they loved the Father, they would love Him, for He was sent from the Father.

One day, Jesus was sitting in the temple. He had just talked with the leaders about helping the poor with money. The leaders said because they had given money to God, they didn’t need to give money to the poor. Jesus said that wasn’t true. Jesus said followers of God need to give money to God and to the poor. In helping the poor, they are serving God.

As Jesus was sitting in the temple, He watched the people bring in their offerings. He saw two different types of people bring their gifts to the box. The first type were very rich people, who had a lot of money. They put large amounts of money in the treasury box. It would seem those large gifts would please God, but let’s see how Jesus reacted after seeing the next type of giver in our story.

Next, He saw a very poor woman, a widow whose husband had died, come into the temple. In the times of Jesus, a woman couldn’t have a job, own a house, or even make money. She had to rely on the help of others in her family. If they didn’t give her money or food, she didn’t have any. She would have to beg or go without.

This poor woman came in and put two little coins called mites in the box. The two mites together totaled less than half a penny! What a small amount the poor woman gave to the treasury! I would think the money she gave wasn’t as important as what the rich people gave, but Jesus revealed what He really thought about the different gifts.

He told His disciples the poor woman gave a better gift than all the rich people combined, because the rich people gave to God only a portion of their money. Although God had commanded them to give only a part of their earnings back to Him, He really wanted them to give of themselves out of thanksgiving, not duty, for His goodness to them.

Jesus saw the hearts of the givers, and He told the disciples the widow’s gift was better than the rich people’s gifts because she gave all she had out of her love for God.

You might be thinking how hard it would be to give everything away, but Jesus wasn’t telling His people to give away all their money so they would be poor. Jesus was saying we should be willing to give cheerfully to God, the Creator of the universe, who has given us everything we have. The widow loved God and wanted to give Him all she had.

(Hearing the Word–Continued)

Giving of yourself to God is a hard thing to do—especially if you don’t mean it. God knows when our hearts aren’t really giving thanks to Him. When we give back to God our tithes and offerings, we are telling God and others we believe God can and will provide for all we need. We don’t have to have all that money—He is going to provide for us because He is faithful.

The best way God has provided is giving us eternal life. Just as the widow gave all she had, Jesus gave His all for us; He showed us what real love is so we can give thanks for the love of God towards us.

First John 3:16 says, “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us.” No wonder He calls us to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, all our minds, and all our souls. We have seen complete love in Jesus’s death on the cross. What a reason to joyfully give back to God!

ACTIVITY 1: Give Thanks Penny Toss

Supplies Needed:

- **Masking tape**
- **Several plastic containers**
- **Several rolls of pennies**

Create a sizeable square with masking tape on the floor. In the square, arrange different containers the kids can toss pennies into from outside the square. Have them take turns around the square tossing in pennies. When they get a penny in a container, have them tell what they are thankful for. (If too large a group, make two squares.)

ACTIVITY 2: Act Out the Scripture

Supplies Needed:

- **Fake bags of money**
- **Two pennies**

Act out the story. Have big bags stuffed with what could be “lots of money.” Have two pennies for the widow. Let several kids bring in the big bags as an offering and then have one child be the widow with the two pennies. Let one child tell why the widow’s gift is best. (You may do this several times giving each child a part to play.)

Benediction

Recite the following verse. (1 minute)

May the God of peace be with you all. Amen (Rom. 15:33).



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