

City SG - January 27-28, 2018

Bible Story: Pennies from Heaven (The Widow's Offering) • *Mark 12:41-44*

Bottom Line: Practice living for God.

Memory Verse: "Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come." *1 Timothy 4:8, NIV*

1. Penny Don't Drop

What You Need: Pennies (12 per group), buckets (2 per group), gaffers tape (campus supplies)

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Make sure the teams are even, or assign one kid to go twice if necessary.
- Mark a starting line for each team with gaffers tape, and line up the teams behind it.
- Place a bucket about 15 feet away from each team.
- When you say, "Go," kids will take turns placing a penny on the top of their shoes and hopping on one foot to the bucket without dropping the penny.
- Once they reach the bucket, they must tilt their foot and drop the penny into the bucket and run back to tag the next person in line.
- If they drop the penny, they must return to the starting line and try again.
- The first team to finish is the winner.

What You Say:

"Great job! Quick, someone raise your hand and tell me how much a penny is worth. (*Pause.*) That's right! It would take ONE HUNDRED of these to make a dollar. A penny isn't worth much, is it? **[Transition]** In our Bible story today, we learned about someone who gave a little—like a couple of pennies—and someone who gave a lot. But only one of these givers caught Jesus' attention."

2. Penny Drop

What You Need: Pennies (from activity 1), plastic cup (2 per group)

What You Do:

- Place the cup on the floor.
- Instruct the kids to line up and one at a time, and drop a penny from chest height into the cup.
- If they make it into the cup, play passes to the next person in line. If they miss, that kid has to answer a question about today's Bible story. Kids can get help from friends if they need it.
- Bible Story Review Questions:
 1. What was Jesus watching the people do in our Bible story today? (*Place their money in the temple treasury*)
 2. Did the rich men give a little or a lot? (*A lot*)
 3. Did the rich men trust God to provide all their needs? How do you know? (*No, because they still had plenty to live on*)
 4. How much did the widow put in? (*Two small coins*)

5. Which of the two givers was Jesus most pleased with: the rich men or the widow? *(The widow)*
6. Why wasn't Jesus impressed with the giving of the rich men? *(Because they didn't make a sacrifice that required them to trust God)*
7. Who did the widow trust? *(God)*
8. What do you think the word "sacrifice" means? *(To give up something valuable)*
9. Was the widow—who had very little—given a different command than the rich men? *(No, both were expected to give)*
10. Did Jesus know the hearts of the people who gave? *(Yes, He knows all our hearts)*
11. What are some ways that we show we trust God? *(By obeying Him, even when it seems easier/better/more fun to do what we want to do)*
12. Why is it important to be obedient to God? *(Because God made everything, which means that the way He tells us to live is the BEST way)*
13. Today we learned we should practice doing what? *(Living for God)*
14. What are some ways you can live for God? *(Various answers)*

What You Say:

"Jesus stopped to watch the people putting their money into the temple treasury. He wasn't concerned with the AMOUNT that people gave. If that was true, then Jesus would have pointed out the wealthy people who put in large amounts of money. But He didn't. Jesus pointed out the poor widow who only gave two small coins. But her gift proved that she trusted God to take care of her. She obediently gave all she had. Talk about living for God! We can live for God too by obeying His Word and trusting Him to take care of all our needs. So my challenge to you is to make a commitment to **[Bottom Line] practice living for God.**"

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about one thing you do on a regular basis to [Bottom Line] practice living for God. How does this habit or commitment make a difference in your life? Maybe you read your Bible and pray first thing in the morning. Maybe you tithe on a regular basis. Maybe you take time to journal on a regular basis. Share an example of one way you choose to live for God.)

3. A Penny for Your Thoughts

What You Need: "Penny" on cardstock 1 per kid), pens

What You Do:

- Pass out one penny to each kid
- Pair up the kids and ask them to share one thing they could do this week to practice living for God.
- Instruct the kids to write that one thing on the back (the blank side) of their penny.
- After they've written their answer down, instruct the kids to switch pennies with their partners.
- Then gather as a group and let each kid share what's written on the penny they are holding.
- Instruct the kids to return the pennies to their partners to take home.

What You Say: "You gave some great examples of ways we can all make a choice to **[Bottom Line] practice living for God.**

I want you to take this penny home to remind you of the sacrifice the widow in our Bible story made AND to encourage you to take action as you make the commitment to **[Bottom Line] practice living for God.**"

4. Penny Hopscotch

What You Need: "Hopscotch Memory Verse" Activity Pages on cardstock (1 per group HG and SN, 2 per group NL & OP), penny, blue painters tape

What You Do:

- Select a volunteer to open the Bible to 1 Timothy 4:8. Then select a different volunteer to read this month's memory verse aloud to the rest of the group.
- Lay the "Hopscotch Memory Verse" Activity Pages in a hopscotch pattern on the floor in your small group area. Consider taping one side of the page to the floor so kids don't slip when they jump on it.
- Encourage the kids to read the verse aloud together as they look at the hopscotch grid.
- Line up the kids at the beginning of the hopscotch grid.
- Hand the first kid the penny and instruct him to pitch the penny so that it lands on one of the spots.
- Quickly pick up the penny and turn that page over so that the kids cannot see the words of that section of the verse.
- Encourage the first kid to jump across the grid and recite this month's verse, including the words that are now facedown.
- Play then moves to the next kid, who throws the penny, lands on a page, turns it face down, jumps along the path, and recites the whole verse.
- Play continues until every page is face down.
- Practice reciting the entire verse as a group from memory.

What You Say:

"When you work on training the body—eating healthy food or exercising—it definitely has value. But when you **[Bottom Line] practice living for God**, it has value in every way for every part of your life! If you want to live the best kind of life, the best thing you can do is look at how God wants you to live. But it takes commitment. It takes practice. You don't get to do one thing for God and then you're done forever! You have to do it over and over. But the good news is, God wants us to do that, and so He'll help us! All we have to do is ask Him."

Pray and Dismiss

"Heavenly Father, we love You. You are an awesome God, and we know that living Your way is the BEST way! Help us to follow through with the things we've written on our pennies this week as we **[Bottom Line] practice living for God**. In Jesus Name, Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, hand out the "God Time" Sheets, and let kids know that if they bring it back the following week they will receive a prize.